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Egypt asks Iraq to probe deaths

CAIRO (R) — Egypt said Monday it had asked Iraq to investigate the deaths of several of its citizens after tests on their bodies raised questions about the way they died. "Tests on the bodies have raised doubts around the cause of death," Interior Minister Mohammad Abdel Halim Mousa told Egypt's national Middle East News Agency. He said Egypt had asked Iraq to investigate. President Hosni Mubarak ordered an inquiry into the death of each Egyptian body sent from Iraq, following the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Egyptian media reports said 82 corpses had been delivered to Cairo since then. Egypt is a leading opponent of Iraq. It had about 1.6 million citizens, mostly labourers, working in Iraq before the invasion and 150,000 in Kuwait. Mousa said last week that even before the invasion, autopsies on bodies of some Egyptians sent back from Iraq showed they had been murdered while Iraqi medical documents on the offings said they had died in accidents. Mousa, referring to bodies sent since the invasion, told the semi-official Al-Ahram daily last week: "We have definite information some of them died on the Iraqi-Jordanian border and all were killed violently and in brutal attacks."

Indian vessels dock in Iraq

BAHRAIN (AP) — Three Indian ships, including one carrying 10,000 tons of food and medical supplies, docked at the port of Umm Qasr in southern Iraq Monday, shipping executives reported. Two of the vessels, the Tipu Sultan and the Akbar, will sail Tuesday to begin shuttling more than 100,000 stranded Indian refugees to Dubai. They will be airlifted to India from there. On their first outbound trip, the vessels were expected to carry about 2,500 refugees. The food ship, the 12,927-ton Vishva Siddhi, was allowed to sail to Iraq by the United Nations Security Council as a humanitarian gesture despite a U.N. economic embargo imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2. India got the green light despite strong opposition from the United States, whose naval forces are leading the international embargo. The Vishva Siddhi, which also carried an Indian Red Cross representative, was expected to take several days to unload the relief aid. U.S. warships inspected the vessel outside the Strait of Hormuz, gateway to the Gulf, and before it entered the waterway to ensure that no prohibited goods were aboard. Umm Qasr is just inside the Iraqi border and 75 kilometres north of Kuwait City.

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Senate panel voices backing for policy

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House (Senate) of Parliament's emergency committee affirmed support for His Majesty King Hussein's pan-Arab stand. In a statement issued Monday, the committee voiced backing for the King's call on the Arabs, Muslims and world nations to commit themselves to the principles of justice and equality in solving the Gulf crisis and other explosive issues in the region such as the Palestine and the Lebanese questions by using the same scale and principles to achieve a comprehensive peaceful settlement in the region. The committee condemned the military buildup in the region and threats to use force in dealing with the crisis. It also called Arab foreign ministers to ask the United Nations Security Council for a meeting to bring to an end to the practices of the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinians and to ensure safety according to the United Nations resolutions.

Taiwan to give \$30m to 3 countries

TAIPEI (AP) — Taiwan will give \$30 million in humanitarian aid to Jordan, Turkey and Egypt for refugees stranded in the Gulf as a result of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, Foreign Minister Fredrick Chiao said Monday. Chien said Taiwan will decide whether to give the aid in cash or in food and supplies after consulting with the three countries. Taiwan is not a member of the United Nations. But Chiao said his country supports the international organisation's call for a trade embargo against Iraq and for humanitarian aid to the victims. Taiwan would not provide military aid to help defray multinational defence costs in the Gulf because Taiwan does not have diplomatic ties with any of the countries involved in the effort.

Iran revives links with Tunisia

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran and Tunisia reestablished diplomatic relations Monday after a 3½ year break, the Iranian Foreign Ministry announced. The official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted a ministry statement as saying the agreement followed talks in Bahrain between the Iranian charge d'affaires, Hossein Naraghian, and the Tunisian ambassador there, Nurreddin Al Andani. The two officials stressed their country's commitment to "the principles of Islamic solidarity and the United Nations charter," the statement said. Tunisia broke off relations with Iran in March 1987 after it accused Tehran of supporting Muslim fundamentalist groups seeking to topple the then President Habib Bourguiba. He was ousted later that year by his prime minister, Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali, in a bloodless palace coup.

Kuwait to claim \$30b in reparations

DOHA (AP) — The toppled Kuwait government, once reinstated, will claim reparations exceeding \$30 billion from Iraq, high-ranking Kuwaiti sources were quoted as saying Sunday. Of that amount, \$14 billion is the value of loans that Kuwait extended to Iraq during its war with Iraq, the unnamed Kuwaiti sources told the Qatari daily newspaper Al-Sharq. The amount will increase with the continuation of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, they said. The sources said Kuwait would seek "material and moral compensation" for Arab and non-Arab communities that fled Kuwait after the Aug. 2 invasion.

East Germany quits Warsaw Pact

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany, once Moscow's chief front-line ally, left the Warsaw Pact Monday ahead of unification with NATO member West Germany next week. Disarmament and Defence Minister Rainer Eppelmann, a pacifist pastor, signed the historic agreement in East Berlin with the pact's supreme commander, General Pjotr Shvach. "With the signing of that treaty, East Germany left the pact," a ministry spokesman said.

Mitterrand proposes four-stage plan for peace in Mideast

UNITED NATIONS (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand said Monday "everything would be possible" in resolving the Gulf crisis if Iraq withdrew from Kuwait and he proposed a four-stage plan for peace in the Middle East.

The French president, who spoke on the first day of the U.N. General Assembly's general debate, said "no compromise" was possible as long as Iraq continued to occupy Kuwait.

The "sovereignty of that country... is not negotiable," he said. "If Iraq would confirm its intentions to withdraw its troops and free the hostages, everything would be possible," he said.

Then the international community would be able to guarantee the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, the restoration of the sovereignty of Kuwait and "the democratic will of the Kuwaiti people," he said.

A third stage, Mitterrand said, would involve the international community, including Arab countries, in solving other disputes in the Middle East, such as the presence of foreign troops in Lebanon, the aspirations of the Palestinian people for an independent state and the right of Israel to live in security.

A fourth stage, he said, would be a mutually agreed reduction of arms and the beginning of cooperation in the Arab World "from Iran to Morocco."

But he lashed out at Saddam Hussein saying the Iraqi leader had not given "one gesture, not one word... not even a glimmer," of complying with U.N. Security Council resolutions demanding Iraq withdraw from Kuwait.

"Is this the end of hope?" Mitterrand asked. "Is there no more room for peace? We don't wish to announce such a verdict... I still have hopes."

Mitterrand said the ransacking of the French embassy in Kuwait by Iraqi soldiers on Sept. 14 and the seizure of French nationals was unprovoked and Iraq's apology was late.

"If there is a mistake why proclaim it so late and why increase the number of hostages with (new) victims?" he said.

The Iraqi action prompted France to send 4,200 ground troops to Saudi Arabia.

through other means. So they wonder why not the same pressure put simultaneously to solve the problem with Iraq and Kuwait and that in Palestine at least to accept the same principles of the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war," he said.

"So this is the difficult side of it. It will be easy for us to concentrate on the immediate crisis and say we are doing the best we can or we have done the best we can and leave it at that and let things move on their own. But now we are continuing to nag for the possibility of a political settlement and that is what makes it so difficult."

The Crown Prince currently visiting the United States and will meet with U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

which includes several Jordanians, that oil was a "blessing that should not be turned into a misfortune."

"It turns into a misfortune when its price is extensively deposited in foreign banks, and it is a grace when it is spent for the benefit of people and for the sake of God," the Iraqi president said.

"God's choosing the Arabs as holders of the message of Islam and as determined messengers for all prophets and all faiths is not a privilege, but a responsibility for the Arabs and as servants of Islam and the Muslims," he said.

Members of the delegation voiced condemnation of foreign intervention in the Gulf crisis and praised Iraq's countering the "Zionist-colonialist aggressions aimed at Islamic holy places and Arab wealth," Petra said.

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dup was part of a U.S. effort to "implement its conspiracy to occupy the region and control its oil."

He said, "America poses a threat to mankind, emerging as a new tyranny in the world."

He said Kuwait's ruling Al Sabah family used "oil to nurture and spread corruption," saying the wealth was "blessing turned into a curse."

"Oil," Saddam added, "destroyed faith after destroying morals." That, he concluded, left the region "facing great, not small, disasters."

Saddam said "good people" in the region were facing two problems: "The Palestinian problem and American tyranny."

"Palestine is for the Palestinians and Jerusalem should be liberated," he said.

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WAITING TO GO HOME: Asian children at an evacuee camp near Azraq (see page 3).

Yemen denies Saudi charge

SANAA (R) — Yemen denied Sunday that its diplomats expelled from Saudi Arabia had posed a security threat to the kingdom. Saudi Arabia said Saturday it had ordered out Iraqi, Yemeni and Jordanian diplomats because they were "engaged in activities detrimental to the kingdom's security and in a manner incompatible with diplomatic norms."

Jordan has said it has not received any notification of the expulsion.

"Those diplomats carried out activities which undermined the security of the kingdom and its safety," a Saudi official said.

But a senior Yemeni foreign ministry official said Sanaa "strongly deplores these allegations which were used by the Saudi government to take its arbitrary measures."

"The Yemeni government is keen that brothers and friends all over the world are fully aware that these allegations are unfounded," he told Reuters.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh said in a speech earlier on Sunday that Yemen's loyalties were "not for sale."

Saudi authorities have expelled 50 Yemeni diplomats and support staff in a move seen by diplomats as retaliation for Sanaa's soft line on the invasion.

While opposing Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait, Yemen and Jordan have denounced the presence of foreign forces in Saudi Arabia, advocating an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

The Yemeni official, who declined to be identified, said measures taken by Saudi Arabia would "only serve the enemies of the two countries and strain relations between two neighbouring countries."

Nearly 2,000 Yemenis have left Saudi Arabia, arriving on foot after Saudi officials forced them to leave their cars at a town 10 kilometres from the border, another senior Yemeni official said Monday.

The Yemenis, who included women and children, had to leave many of their belongings in their cars, the official added.

The official said the Yemenis were travelling in a convoy of cars Sunday.

King: Mideast events similar to those of 1914

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has said events in the Gulf crisis threaten to repeat those of 1914 "when the world stumbled into a war it did not want but could not stop."

Recalling the outbreak 76 years ago of World War I, the King wrote in Monday's editions of the Guardian of London and the Washington Post that he believes a war can still be prevented, but that if it comes the effects cannot be limited.

He wrote: "It is very disturbing that some believe military action is the only solution. This is dangerously short-sighted. The effects of a war against Iraq will not be limited to the confines of that country. They will reverberate in every capital throughout the Middle East. They will create the very instability such action was designed to prevent."

As for victors and spoils, Middle East wars have produced neither, only graveyards for false illusions and the seeds for future wars," the King said.

A repeat of the scenario of 1914 "would be an inexcusable tragedy," said the King.

"If the same effort by the world community in the present marshalling of military forces, the imposition of sanctions and the commitment of colossal sums of money were to be applied to a political solution, I am convinced it could be achieved," he said.

Following is the full text of the article:

Is it too late to prevent another major war in the Middle East? In the pace of events accelerating at such an uncontrollable rate that war is inevitable? Are the opposing parties so locked into their positions that a peaceful solution is no longer possible?

It is the sad conclusion of many of those who live in the area, and who will be the innocent victims of such a conflagration, that the answer is probably yes. And it is part of their despair that they are helpless to do anything about it.

One might ask how such a tragic turn of events could have occurred in the space of less than two months. Will there be any victors, and what will be the spoils? Are we embarked on a noble mission to establish a new world order of peace and justice and the abolition of aggression? Or are we witnessing a replay of the quixotic events of August 1914 when the world stumbled into a war which it did not want but could not stop?

I am stubborn enough to believe there is still a chance to prevent another war. I refuse to concede that the pace of events cannot be brought under control and I cannot concede what disputants would commit themselves to a war that is so obviously contrary to their own vital interests.

As for victors and spoils, Middle East wars have produced neither, only graveyards for false illusions and the seeds for future wars.

Let us hope that a new world order can be established, but its foundation must be based on conciliation, not conflagration, and on distributive not selective justice and morality.

I fear the current course of events in the Middle East could, indeed, be a replay of August 1914. To repeat that scenario would be an inexcusable tragedy. If the same effort by the world community in the present marshalling of military forces, the imposition of sanctions and the commitment of colossal sums of money were to be applied to a political solution, I am convinced it could be achieved.

It is very disturbing that some believe military action is the only solution to the current crisis. This is dangerously short-sighted. The effects of a war against Iraq will not be limited to the confines of that country. They will reverberate in every capital throughout the Middle East.

(Continued on page 5)

Israel to demolish Bureij shops, homes and expel residents

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel will demolish houses and shops to punish the Palestinian refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip where an Israeli soldier was killed, military officers and Arab reports said Monday.

Israel also is considering the expulsion of Palestinians suspected of involvement in the killing.

The soldier was killed Thursday in the Gaza's Bureij refugee camp after his car hit a donkey cart, injuring two Palestinian teenagers. The Palestinian mob stoned him then set his car afire with his body inside.

Arab reports said the army ordered at least 20 families in the Bureij camp to remove their belongings from their homes. Such orders usually precede the demolition of houses.

They also said the owners of 13 shops and one gas station were ordered to vacate their premises, apparently in advance of demolition.

The gas station apparently was the one from which Palestinians last Thursday got gas-soaked cars that they threw on the soldier's car to set it on fire.

An Israeli military officer declined to say how many buildings were affected. He did not say when the demolitions would occur.

Hasham Mahamid, a member of the Israeli parliament, said after a one-hour visit to the camp that he saw the owner of the gas station and at least a dozen shopkeepers removing the goods from their shops.

"People told me there might be 37 houses and shops demolished and that they expected it to be soon," Mahamid told the Associated Press.

In Tunis, senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) aide Bassam Abu Sharif said the demolition of houses in Bureij would "a brutal terrorist act."

Israel says it has demolished 304 Arab houses since the revolt erupted.

The Bureij camp, home to 37 houses and shops demolished and that they expected it to be soon," Mahamid told the Associated Press.

(Continued on page 4)

Assad seen having trouble with anti-Iraq push in Iran

Tehran says food smugglers arrested

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran said Sunday it had arrested 29 smugglers trying to move foodstuffs across the border into Iraq to circumvent a U.N.-imposed embargo, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Monday.

The agency said the 29 were all members of two gangs that usually smuggle other contraband across the mountainous border in northwestern Kurdistan province.

They were handed over Sunday to an Islamic revolutionary court in Sanandaj, capital of Iranian Kurdistan, IRNA said.

Rice, dates, raisins, tomato sauce, vegetable oil, flour, sugar and powdered milk were seized from the smugglers, IRNA reported.

The arrests were announced amid what appeared to be a conflict within the Iranian hierarchy over whether to help Iraq confront the U.S.-led military buildup in Saudi Arabia or back the international campaign against Baghdad.

Iran has officially announced it will enforce sanctions on Iraq, imposed by the United Nations after its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

But Tehran newspapers have also suggested Iran may send "humanitarian shipments" of food and medicine to Iraq, its foe in the 1980-88 Gulf war, because these are exempted from the sanctions.

Residents in Baghdad said that food items which had disappeared from shops several weeks ago have reappeared. They said the food was coming from Iran.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani has had close contact with his Turkish counterpart, Turgut Ozal, since the invasion, according to IRNA dispatches.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Iran's major Arab ally, is currently in Tehran apparently seeking to convince the Iranians to comply with the sanction.

Assad, who met in Damascus with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Sept. 14, is believed to be carrying a message from Washington for Rafsanjani, asking what it will take for Tehran to abide by the sanctions as it has promised.

Assad arrived in Tehran Saturday for a three-day visit. IRNA announced Monday he was attending his stay for an unspecified period, but gave no details.

That suggested Assad may be having a hard time convincing Tehran to fall in line with the West and its allies against Iraq.

Rafsanjani, leader of the country's so-called pragmatists, is eager to rebuild bridges with the West and is believed in favour of siding by the sanctions as his government has pledged.

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Both Abrar and Kayhan questioned whether by aligning himself with the United States Assad had not abandoned its support of the Palestinian cause, which Tehran considers a cornerstone of its own foreign policy.

"Damascus has always been regarded as an anti-Zionist stronghold, and many wish it remained so," Abrar said.

To dispel the notion that Syria had any intention of abandoning its anti-Israeli policy, and reassure his Iranian allies, Assad said Sunday: "We must always remember that Israel is the foremost enemy."

In his meeting with Khamenei, he stressed that the Zionist regime is the primary enemy, and Syria's policy is based on the thinking that the Zionists are considered the greatest danger."

Aoun says militias should be disbanded

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rebel General Michel Aoun has said he would cooperate with President Elias Hrawi's government only when all militia that fought in Lebanon's civil war are disbanded.

"I am ready for any sacrifice, effort and cooperation provided this will result in the emergence of genuine detente and consequently the rise of sovereign state on its territory mastering its decision-making," Aoun said.

"But the unity of the country cannot be accomplished unless all irregular guns are removed ... militias must be cancelled," he said in an "address to the nation" over his radio station.

That was his first official response to Hrawi's call upon him Friday to join forces with him to enforce a peace plan brokered by the Arab League last year to resolve the 15-year-old civil war.

Hrawi made the call as he signed into law a package of constitutional reforms that gave Muslims an equal share of power with the Christians for the first time since independence from France in 1943.

"Otherwise I will be forced to take the bitter decision of resorting to an imperative surgical operation" to crush Aoun's forces in the Christian enclave north and northeast of Beirut.

Aoun, a Christian like Hrawi, did not comment on the reforms or make any reference to Hrawi's threat of military action in his 15-minute radio address.

His stance appeared to suggest that he does not want to keep the door open for a compromise pro-

vided the rival Lebanese forces militia of Christian warlord Samir Geagea was eliminated.

Aoun's fought a nearly four-month war earlier this year with Geagea's 6,000-strong militia for mastery of the Christian enclave that comprises east Beirut and the adjoining hinterland.

A ceasefire was called May 16, with Aoun in control of pockets in east Beirut and the neighbouring Metn mountains. Geagea's irregulars control the remaining 80 per cent of the 850 square-kilometre enclave.

Aoun urged Hrawi's mainly Muslim troops to defy orders to attack territory under the control of his 15,000 soldiers.

About 6,000 of Hrawi's troops tightened the onus around Aoun's area this week after a fuel and cash blockade he ordered in July failed to force the general into submission.

Reacting to Hrawi's endorsement Friday of a set of constitutional reforms, Aoun told visitors earlier Sunday that he would not join Hrawi's "government of chaos and militias."

"Our nation of law has been established two years ago. Let them come and join our state of law," he said.

The constitutional amendments were part of an Arab peace pact reached by Lebanese deputies in the Saudi city of Taif last October. The pact was ratified by parliament last month.

The reforms give Muslims greater power to Lebanon's Christian-dominated political system, widely considered a root cause of the civil war.

Iran has at least 14 MiG-29s

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran now has Soviet-built MiG-29 advanced fighter jets under a deal signed by President Hashemi Rafsanjani in Moscow last June.

A well-informed source in Tehran told the Associated Press Sunday night the Iranians have at least 14 of the supersonic interceptors.

The acquisition of these fighters is a big boost for Iran's badly depleted air force, one of the main weak links in its armed forces.

Iran has at least 30 MiG-29s.

The Tehran Times, which is close to Rafsanjani, noted in an editorial: "The Kremlin has over sold the MiGs to any government except those whose ties with Moscow were more than excellent."

"As such, the Soviets' agreement to sell Iran the advanced fighters has a great deal of significance for regional political circles."

The daily stressed that "Iran's military purchases will not be limited to this newly acquired batch of fighters. Moscow has announced its agreement to sell more arms to the Islamic Republic."

It did not elaborate. But the Soviets are understood to have agreed to deliver tanks and other heavy weapons to Tehran under the \$6 billion economic and defence package Rafsanjani signed in Moscow in June last year.

U.S. says it sent Iraq warnings against invasion

WASHINGTON (R) — Secretary of State James Baker, rejecting criticism that the United States did not warn Iraq against invading Kuwait, has said that Washington took several steps aimed at deterring and assuring even as Iraq was massing troops along the Kuwaiti border.

He also said that bringing Israel into the Gulf conflict, as Iraq threatened to do, would not necessarily unify Arab countries against the United States and its allies.

Baker, asked about an Iraqi denouement that quoted U.S. Ambassador April Glaspie as telling Saddam Hussein on July 25 that the United States would not involve itself in his dispute with Kuwait, insisted that Washington had made it clear that it would disapprove of an invasion.

"The suggestion that somehow the United States contributed to Saddam Hussein's unprovoked aggression against this small country is ludicrous, absolutely, ludicrous," Baker said in a television interview.

He said the United States had sent three signals to Iraq showing its disapproval of an invasion.

"Signal number one was to slap foreign policy export controls on Iraq," he said. "Signal number two was to cancel or suspend the commodity credit programme (a U.S. subsidy accord) with Iraq. Signal number three was to prohibit the export of a number of items that we and some of our allies thought might be useful in terms of missile or nuclear proliferation."

The Iraqi document, described as a transcript of a conversation between Glaspie and Saddam, was translated and broadcast by ABC News and portions of it were printed in several newspapers.

The Bush administration has also come under criticism during the past week from Congress, with some lawmakers charging that the United States left the impression that it would not come to the defence of Kuwait.

Referring to a threat by Iraq to widen the Gulf conflict to include Israel, Baker said such a move would not necessarily diminish the support of Gulf state Arabs for the troop buildup in the Gulf by the United States and its allies.

"One more case of unprovoked aggression I don't think is going to lead to uniting the Arab countries, the majority of which are strongly united in support of the United Nations and the world community," he said.

Although Baker declined to rule out military action by U.S. forces in the Gulf, he stressed that there are still several other options available besides the current United Nations-sanctioned embargo against Iraq.

"I think there are a whole host of other things that might be considered" he said.

Baker said a U.N. Security Council meeting this week may pass a resolution calling for an air embargo against Iraq.

He again ruled out any compromise solution to the Gulf crisis, short of a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and a full restoration of Kuwait's "legitimate" government before there could be negotiations between Kuwait and Iraq over their border dispute.

The Washington Post reported Sunday that senior U.S. army and marine corps officers had drafted contingency plans to mount ground assaults against Iraq from as many as four directions.

The plans were part of the military options being prepared for President George Bush in the event a United Nations trade embargo failed to dislodge Iraq from Kuwait and the administration decided to pursue a military option, the Post said.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney fired Air Force General Michael Dugan from the Joint Chiefs of Staff last week after Dugan revealed details of U.S. military contingency plans for any war with Iraq in interviews with the Washington Post and Los Angeles Times.

Baker also said the Bush administration was reading a plan to provide weapons needed immediately to protect Saudi Arabia and U.S. soldiers serving there.

"The first phase of a two-part

package will be sent to Congress for approval early this week, Baker said.

Baker refused to put a price tag on the package, but other sources said the first installment will total \$10 billion with the full plan valued at around \$21 billion. The second part is expected to be sent to Congress early next year.

Bush agreed to submit the weapons proposal in two installments after members of Congress, particularly those close to Israel, objected to the size of the deal. But Baker insisted Bush was not revising his plans for the Saudis.

Several members of Congress said they would be willing to support the \$10 billion plan in an election year, but next year's package could face a tougher time.

The weapons sale would be the largest in history, the previous record was an \$8 billion package that also went to the Saudis.

The first installment "will represent the needs that we think are immediate for Saudi Arabia, and, frankly, needs that would ... serve to protect American lives," Baker said.

About 150,000 American soldiers have been deployed in Saudi Arabia. Baker did not say specifically what the Pentagon wants to send the Saudis, but the initial items are expected to include material the United States could send quickly, such as anti-tank missiles and trucks.

The second phase would include more sophisticated weapons such as the M-1 tank, F-15 fighter jets and Apache helicopters.

Saudi government representative Fred Dutton said that country was not upset at the administration's decision to split the package in two. As a result of the Gulf crisis, the Saudis are enlarging and restructuring their defences by calling up volunteers and beefing up oil field security.

"After the dust clears, they will see what their defence requirements are," he said. If the Saudis can't get what they want from the United States, they'll shop elsewhere, he said. Saudi Arabia is viewed as a good customer because it pays cash for weapons.

Saudi deal

Baker also said the Bush administration was reading a plan to provide weapons needed immediately to protect Saudi Arabia and U.S. soldiers serving there.

"The first phase of a two-part

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq completes pipeline to Kuwait

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Monday it had completed a pipeline to supply part of Kuwait with drinking water from the Shatt Al Arab waterway. The newspaper Al Jumhuriya said the 40-cm pipeline, stretching more than 100 kilometres, was laid in 25 days. Iraq said Sunday its annexation of Kuwait, which it invaded on Aug. 2, was "eternal and irreversible." It has declared Kuwait its 19th province. The newspaper said the supply pipe would serve a border strip named Saddamiat Al Mufria after President Saddam Hussein. It was formerly Kuwait's Al Abdali. The project involved building 40 water storage tanks, two main pumping stations, and ten outlets for water tanker trucks. Al Jumhuriya quoted Iraqi government officials as saying the new supply would meet the needs of all towns and villages in the strip, about 10 kilometres deep along the previous border with Iraq.

Le Pen condemns sanctions

PARIS (R) — French right-wing extremist leader Jean-Marie Le Pen has condemned world trade sanctions against Iraq, while former conservative Prime Minister Jacques Chirac sought clarification about the deployment of French troops in Saudi Arabia. In the first break by a mainstream politician from official French policy on the Gulf crisis, Chirac said President Francois Mitterrand's decision last week to send ground forces to the region need further explanation. He said in an interview on French radio that sending warships to enforce the U.N. trade embargo against Iraq was not the same thing as sending troops. "We have chosen another strategy, one of war," he said. "I therefore ask what is their mission and who will command our forces in the exercise of this mission?" French ground forces, due to arrive in Saudi Arabia on Oct. 1, raise France's military commitment in the region to 13,300 men, 14 warships and 48 anti-tank helicopters. The French media has voiced concern as to whether France will be in command of its 4,200 men in Saudi Arabia. Le Pen, speaking at a rally of his National Front Party, said trade sanctions against Baghdad were unfairly starving the Iraqi people. "This is unworthy of civilised peoples," he said. "It is also unworthy to threaten these civilians with extermination by massive air raids."

Australian pleads guilty to jumping ship

SYDNEY (R) — An Australian sailor who jumped ship en route to the Gulf after watching television film of U.S. President George Bush playing golf pleaded guilty Monday at his court martial to being absent without leave. Navy sources said Leading Seaman Terry Jones, 30, failed to show up when his ship, the guided missile frigate Adelaide, sailed from Perth in August. The five-member naval court martial granted Jones a three-week adjournment to prepare his case before sentencing. He faces a maximum 12-month prison sentence. Australia has sent two guided missile frigates and a supply ship to join the naval blockade of Iraq. In a statement after he jumped ship, Jones said: "After seeing one of the parties responsible for it all on holidays, playing golf while committing thousands of young lives including those of Australians — it was enough for me to decide not to be part of the killing."

Battles kill five in S. Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Shiite Muslim militias, vying for control of their 1.3 million-strong community, fought in South Lebanon killing five people Sunday, security sources said. They said the pro-Iranian Hizbollah and the Syrian-backed Amal militia traded heavy artillery, mortar and rocket fire in the area of the Iqlim Al Touhah ridge 40 kilometres south of Beirut. Local villagers appealed in a statement to Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani and Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad to use their influence to end the long-running struggle between the militias. The two presidents were meeting in Tehran Sunday. Witnesses said the bombardment, shell-pocked and set ablaze many houses. Three Hizbollah fighters were among the five killed, the sources said.

Menem sacks adviser for breaking embargo

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine President Carlos Menem has sacked one of his advisers for sending 140 tonnes of beef to Iraq, by way of Iran, in violation of the trade embargo. A government statement said Alberto Samid had been dismissed as a presidential adviser "for having collaborated with the government of Iraq in open violation of decree 1560." On Aug. 15 Menem issued decree 1560 pledging Argentine support for the United Nations economic embargo of Iraq. Samid, who is of Arab descent, as is the president himself, is a Peronist Party deputy for the Buenos Aires provincial government and owner of a meat packing company. He was one of the first businessmen to back Menem's successful bid for the presidency. In recent television interviews, Samid has openly expressed his support of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, and referred to "our brother Saddam" in praising Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Argentina last week decided to send a destroyer, Corvette and 450 men to join the multinational blockade of Iraq. The ships are due to leave the navy base in the Atlantic port of Puerto Belgrano Tuesday. In a radio interview, Samid said Menem did not know of the shipment.

Algeria dissolves secret police

ALGIERS (AP) — President Chadli Bendjedid this weekend ordered Algeria's secret police dissolved in a move seen as a sign of his wish to appease forces for democracy in the country. The brief announcement said the general delegation for documentation as security known as the DGDS, would be replaced by a branch dealing exclusively with counter-espionage. The announcement comes days before the return from exile this week for former President Ahmed Ben Bella and about six months before the first multi-party legislative elections that could give Algeria its first pluralist parliament in nearly 30 years. Ben Bella and other opposition leaders had called for the dissolution of the secret police unit as a sign of real democratisation. The existence of the secret police was only made official with the resignation announcement Sept. 5 of its director, General Mohammed Betchine. He had been given the post after October 1988 riots that killed scores of citizens, mainly youths, and set in motion the process leading to pluralism.

Text of Iraqi statement

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq threatened Sunday to strike at Israel and oilfields in the Middle East if it was attacked by U.S.-dominated forces in the Gulf.

Following is a partial text, translated by Reuters, of the statement issued after a joint meeting of the Iraqi Revolutionary Command Council and the regional Baath Party, chaired by President Saddam Hussein. The Arabic text was carried by the Iraqi News Agency (INA):

"The United States has gone too far in the big criminal actions against Iraq and the Arab Nation by its hateful aggressiveness, especially by its occupation of the land of the Arab and Muslim holy places in Najd and Hijaz (Saudi Arabia), and the embargo it has imposed on the unyielding people of Iraq."

"It has gone far below the minimum level of human standards towards which even those who believe in the law of the jungle would not stoop."

"...America should not indulge further and further. It must remove from its mind any thoughts of pushing matters toward military confrontation. It must quickly realise the dangers of the so-called lightning strike."

"...I should withdraw from the holy lands of the Arabs and Muslims. Contrary to that, the United States should clearly realise that it is pushing the entire region, and not only Iraq — in fact, even the whole world, foremost of which its sons whom (U.S. President George) Bush brought to the region — to the brink of an unfathomable abyss, from which the region could not escape to see the daylight for tens of years."

"The oil, its areas, and Israel will be transformed into something different from what they

are now. Thus will be the deluge."

"We will never allow anybody, whoever he may be, to strangle the people of Iraq by the deluge without himself being strangled."

"If we feel that the Iraqi people are being strangled, that there are some who will deal a bloody blow to them, then we will strangle all those who are the cause of this."

"The oil areas in Saudi Arabia and in other parts of the states of the region and all the oil installations will be rendered incapable of responding to the needs of those who came to us as occupiers in order to usurp our sovereignty, dignity, and wealth."

"...All dangerous weapons should be removed from the whole region, and those concerned should warn the foreigners against adopting the big stick policy in the region, and to replace it by a policy of understanding which is based on justice and fairness."

"Everybody should remember that there is no way justice and justice can coexist in the region, or can poverty and barbaric exploitation coexist with wealth, nor aggressiveness with peace, backwardness with progress, despair with hope."

"They should also realise that what we have warned against might happen when the sparks come out of the barrels of confounding guns, and out of the friction of the fleets of aggression with our means and forces. The sparks might fly by mistake or deliberately to afterward cause a huge conflagration. When this happens, a deluge will ensue."

"To prevent this feared eventuality from taking place, those concerned should pull back armies as well as navy and air fleets as soon as possible. This must be the first step towards

the creation of climates of understanding."

"There will be no understanding under the spearheads of threats and punishment (sanctions)."

"...Arabs who are launching good offices are urged not to replace the solution that we offered on 12th August with a partial solution, thereby turning the conflict from one concerning major issues into one regarding minor issues. This benefits the tactics of the enemies and their supporters."

"The major issue concerns the struggle of the Arabs and Muslims in their righteous jihad against falsehood. The prime objective is the liberation of Palestine from the Zionist usurpers."

"The blow dealt to that evil ruling clique (in Kuwait), the agent of the foreigner, was an indispensable defensive move to maintain Iraq's character and resources and improve them in order to achieve the well-known noble objectives."

"...Kuwait was restored to its people to be part of its original nation by an eternal decision from which there can be no retreat under any circumstances or conditions."

"...The Arab solution... is one that would be discussed under propitious circumstances... the policy of threats should be replaced by announcing a desire for understanding."

"There is no room for us to believe any desire in this regard on the part of those concerned unless they declare the actual withdrawal of foreign troops from the region. Once this happens, the Arabs will have the chance and the ability to unite on a position to be agreed on and divisions will leave the new scene of inter-Arab ties."

"Understanding rather than infighting will prevail."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Korna
15:40 Programme review
15:50 Children programmes
16:00 News Summary
16:10 Local programme
16:20 Programme review
16:30 News in Arabic
16:40 Arabic series
16:50 Programme review
17:00 Local programme
17:10 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:05 Documentary
18:35 Des chiffres et de lettres
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:40 News in Arabic
20:00 Every Breath You Take
21:00 News in English
22:20 Martin Luther King

PRAYER TIMES

05:43 Fajr
06:27 (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:27 Dhuhr
13:54 'Asr
18:54 Maghreb
19:51 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swedish Tel. 810740.
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 652785, 683256.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzian Church Tel. 622666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625411.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625433.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Armenian International Church Tel. 683256.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 615817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Slight drop in temperatures will occur and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be

northwesterly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 14/23
Aqaba 23/33
Dead Sea 15/35
Jordan Valley 21/34

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 33. Humidity readings: Amman 48 per cent, Aqaba 37 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

ADMAN:
Dr. Salim Daboubi 776751
Dr. Hamdi Zargaji 783708
Dr. Munther Al Ounai 776258
Dr. Sami Al Khouri 661373
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 776336
Al Azma pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636790
Shamsi pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660

Dr. Mahmoud Saeed (—)
Al Shamsi pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:
Dr. Farah Aqrabawi (—)
Khaleel pharmacy 983417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 600341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police (92, 621111, 637777)
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 771111
Complaints (directory assistance) 121
Overseas calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 615615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 66-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 66-53200

HOSPITALS

ADMAN:
Hawain Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaleel Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Akheh Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malha, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 6641714
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843845
Al-Munther Hospital 6672779
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Munther 7710103
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, Marja 89161175
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
The Sina Hospital (09)986752

Evacuee flight lands in U.S.

MORRISVILLE, North Carolina (AP) — Evacuees fleeing Kuwait waved American flags to celebrate their freedom as they arrived in the United States.

A DC-10 with 111 evacuees aboard arrived at Raleigh-Durham international airport shortly after 6 p.m. (2200 GMT) Sunday. No further U.S.-chartered evacuation flights are scheduled, officials said.

"This is the last (flight) we've been told to prepare for," said Joe Myers, director of the North Carolina emergency management division.

The World Airways plane took off from London's Heathrow airport with 111 refugees and a State Department doctor, he said.

The refugees were among 140 evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq who arrived at London's Gatwick airport Saturday night from Baghdad. The rest remained in Britain.

The evacuees included 76 adults, 20 children over age 2 and 15 infants, Myers said. Adult passenger nationalities included 41 Americans, 43 Jordanians, seven Palestinians, four Iraqis and two Kuwaitis.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)5300-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:05 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:15 Moscow (RJ)
09:30 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
10:15 Dubai (RJ)
10:45 Jeddah, Amman (RJ)
10:55 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
11:00 Montreal, New York (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Upsetlower price in \$/kg

Apple 600 / 400
Banana 500 / 450
Banana (Mulkam) 450 / 400
Beans 350 / 300
Cabbage 120 / 80
Carrot 250 / 200
Cauliflower 240 / 180
Corn 140 / 80
Cucumber (large) 140 / 80
Cucumber (small) 240 / 180
Dates 360 / 300
Eggplant 200 / 150
Figs 400 / 300
Garlic 850 / 700
Grapes 300 / 250
Lemon 120 / 80
Mallow 240 / 200
Marrow (large) 140 / 80
Marrow (small) 280 / 220
Onion (dry) 240 / 180
Orange 450 / 400
Oregano 600 / 500
Peas 600 / 500
Pepper (hot) 600 / 500
Pepper (sweet) 120 / 100
Potato 340 / 280
Radish 250 / 200
Sage 150 / 100
Sweet melon 350 / 300
Tomato 250 / 200
Watermelon 140 / 90

More medicine and food head for Iraq

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Approximately 400 men, women and children saw off a truck convoy of 30 trucks filled with foodstuff and medicine headed for Baghdad Monday afternoon.

The trucks, filled with JD 50,000 worth of milk powder, flour, oil, vegetables and medicine, represented the fund raising efforts of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) during the last 10 days, said Dr. Abdullah Khatib, president of GUVS.

"The 'donations convoy' was the third in a series which began five weeks ago in an attempt to supply essential needs to the people of Iraq after the U.N. imposed economic sanctions against Iraq."

"A gift from the children of the infidels to the children of Iraq," read the banners on each and every truck that were seen off by school children, mothers, officials and representatives of different religious communities in Jordan at the seventh circle on the airport road.

Khatib explained that almost the entire 30 truck shipment had been donated by the residents of four Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan. People from all walks of life joined the "farewell walk."

"I gave two dinars," said one ten-year-old schoolgirl, who attends a private school in Amman. She said her school had organised their participation in the fund raising event.

Two children from the Beqaa camp said that they had no money of their own to donate but they had taken flour from their homes in order to be able to give something to help the children of Iraq.

"We know they need our help," said one 11-year-old participant. "We saw on television that America wants to declare war on Iraq and that's why we are helping them."

Organisers said that "if people were in need anywhere in the world we would help — this is a humanitarian gesture."

Orphanage children hold candle vigil to mark daily deaths of world children

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Mabarrat Um-Ai-Hussein (the orphanage in Marka) participated in a candle vigil ceremony on Sunday night. The candle vigil is an international event organised by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). On this day children worldwide light candles in remembrance of the estimated number of 40,000 children that die daily all over the world due to diseases, wars, famines or natural disasters. Pictures of the children holding the candle vigil ceremony at the Mabarrat Um-Ai-Hussein will be sent to the World Summit for Children, due to convene at the United Nations headquarters in New York from Sept. 29 to Sept. 30.

"We want everyone to know that Jordan is interested in saving the lives of children all over the world. We have al-

ways believed in giving children a chance," a UNICEF representative who attended the ceremony said. She went on to add that approximately 3,000 children in the Middle East die daily. "This could be easily avoided with inexpensive measures, if the world only listened to the plight of the children," she said.

Mabarrat Um-Ai-Hussein, founded in 1951 by Queen Mother Zein, houses today 145 children, 12 teachers and a housekeeping staff. It serves both as an orphanage and a foster home. It also serves as a school for the children. "We hold regular school hours, from 8 am to 2.30 p.m. Graduates of our school receive a high school degree that will qualify them to go on with their higher education if they want to in the future," one of the teachers at the home said.

"I want to become a lawyer," one of the students said. Another said he would like to study political science, to guide his country as wisely as King Hussein is in guiding Jordan.

"The Queen Mother, the founder of this home, is actively involved in knowing things about the children, their education, their health. She also visits them often," Lamia Judeh, one of the volunteers working at the orphanage, told the Jordan Times. She also added the children celebrate Mother's Day by inviting the Queen Mother to the orphanage.

"This is my home. I have been here for the past twelve years; the children here are like a family," one of the children, who is a tawjihi student, said.

The orphanage receives donations from charitable

organisations and individuals. "We also have a very generous mysterious benefactor, who has been donating regularly \$5000 a month to the orphanage, which goes to show you that there is still some good in the world," Judeh said.

Asked what message the children would like to send to the leaders convening at the World Summit for Children in New York, Mazen Sayam, an 18-year-old at the home said: "We would like them to look at the future and at the children's future and to think, before making military and political decisions, about the risks involved, not about their own personal gains."

Another student, Majdi Reza'i said: "Today's children are tomorrow's leaders of peace. We just want to remind them (the leaders of the upcoming summit) of that."

Self-dependence, increased production needed under circumstances — Badran

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is the most severely affected country by the Gulf crisis, and the present difficult circumstances make it incumbent upon this country to become self-dependent and increase industrial and agricultural production, said Ibrahim Badran, secretary-general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

To face the current crisis and the difficulties the Kingdom is passing through Jordanians should develop their capabilities and potentials and find alternate methods to increase production, especially in industry and farming, and to cooperate with major companies to help them produce their requirements of spare parts for machines used in production process, Badran said at the opening of a two-day symposium on local industry and Jordan's food security strategy.

"The Ministry of Industry and Trade invites all those concerned with means of production to maintain contacts with the ministry department in order to obtain information and ideas about increasing production or to offer suggestions that can be beneficial for industry and agriculture,"



Ibrahim Badran

Badran said. He told the meeting, attended by a large number of industrialists and representatives of the private and public sectors, that crises and critical moments in the history of nations normally open the way for the people to introduce change and come up with notions for improvement and modernisation with a view to

adapting to new situations.

The meeting, organised by the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) in cooperation with the Amman Chamber of Industry and the University of Jordan, is to study the role of local industry in times of crises, prospects for developing means of production by using locally produced materials, cooperation between the industrial and agricultural sectors with a view to ensuring food security for Jordan as well as the application of modern technology in industry and agriculture rationing energy consumption and other related topics.

JEA President Ismail Brewish told the meeting that the symposium "comes at a difficult time when the Arab Nation is facing challenges manifested in the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf and the ongoing embargo on Iraq."

"There is dire need now for industry and agriculture to double their efforts and boost production," Brewish said.

"JEA which is interacting with the fast moving developments in the Arab region, has organised the symposium as a contribution

towards finding solutions for current problems facing production," he said.

According to Khaled Kanaan from the Amman Chamber of Industry, food security has become closely linked to political independence as one can every day witness instances in which the major food producing countries exercise pressure on the developing nations and impose their will on their future and political independence.

"For this reason, the industrial and agricultural sectors have a major role to play in the country to find ways to enable Jordan to do without imports from other countries and improve the quality of local products," Kanaan said.

Several working papers are to be discussed during the symposium, held at the Amman Chamber of Industry tackling Jordan's prospects in food industries, the role of the Ministry of Supply in subsidising basic commodities and promoting the supply industry, the role of science and technology in promoting industry, the processing of fodder in Jordan and issues related to industrial financing.

Press association demands new law on press, publication

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Press Association (JPA) is demanding a new law on press and publication which would give further impetus to the Jordanian press in dealing with local and international issues of concern to the country, JPA President Hashem Khreisat said in a statement Monday.

"The present law, which was enacted in 1973, is no more suitable and can by no means be of use in view of the fast moving developments and the democratisation process in Jordan," Khreisat said.

"The 1973 law provides for restrictions on the press and gives the executive authority the right to suspend a local newspaper and withdraw its licence without giving the press the right to contest such actions in courts," Khreisat pointed out.

"We want a new press and publication law that can offer the press more freedoms and remove restrictions that would limit the role of the national newspapers in dealing with various issues of concern to the public," Khreisat demanded.

He said that the democratisation process in the country had granted newspaper editors the right to decide on the type of



Hashem Khreisat

materials to publish without any interference from the Ministry of Information, but more was needed in this respect and that can come through the enactment of a new press and publication law.

Referring to radio and television, Khreisat said that they too needed to adopt new approaches and new methods in dealing with issues of concern to society in Jordan. "Changes and improvements that have taken place in the radio and television performances are limited and there is

need for more improvements," said Khreisat.

With reference to the coverage of events, Khreisat said that newspaper reporters were satisfied with receiving news without going out into the field for a full coverage. "There is need for reporters and those representing the information services to go out into the field and deal directly with those involved in the events so that reporting can be meaningful," Khreisat said.

Information and media services affect the whole society and can play a leading role in affecting socio-economic development and contribute towards better understanding among people, Khreisat pointed out.

"Since Jordan is embarking on a new phase in democratic rule, especially after finalising the national charter, which would open the way for political pluralism and the creation of political parties, there will be need for new daily and weekly papers to help express the public's views," Khreisat said.

He said that a new newspaper in the country should have objectives and meet the needs of large sectors of the public and reflect the orientation and thinking of the people.



Azraq camp offers more humane conditions to evacuees (photo Yusef Al Allan)

New Azraq camp to replace Shaalan I

AZRAQ (R) — Jordan has opened a new refugee camp on its eastern border to cope with a possible fresh exodus of Asians from Iraq and Kuwait, officials said Monday.

They said the camp, set up by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in a no-man's-land between Iraq and Jordan's Ruwished border post, replaces the notorious Shaalan I camp, closed 11 days ago because of worsening conditions.

"It is a reception centre in which all nationalities are separated before being sent to camps closer to Amman," a border official said.

He said the centre, a few kilometres west of the abandoned Shaalan I site, can now receive 1,000 people, but would be equipped to accommodate 5,000 by Thursday.

Some 26,000 refugees at two well-equipped desert camps near Azraq, 85 kilometres northeast of Amman, were anxiously awaiting flights home Monday.

People queuing for water

covered their faces with towels when a dust storm struck the tent villages.

"We were told in Baghdad that an Indian embassy convoy would take us to Amman, but when we arrived we were dumped in the camp," said Sara Kurien, an Indian sales executive from Kuwait.

"The camp is well-organised, but the whole ordeal breaks your spirit," she said.

Kurien arrived at Azraq I, run by the ICRC, on Sept. 20 with her parents, sister and cousin. She said her father spent his 60th birthday there but was in no mood to celebrate.

"We were lucky there were only 21 people in our tent. In other camps 35 people were crammed together," she said.

Some 40,000 refugees, mainly Asians, are now in Jordan after escaping Kuwait and Iraq. Many left their life savings behind.

Some are staying in two camps near the border with Iraq and others in a small camp on the airport highway south of

Amman.

"Things have eased compared to early September when we had up to 100,000 Asians piled up in Jordan, with no planes to take them home and chaos in all refugee camps," a security official said.

"But we are still worried because we don't know what to expect in the near future and we don't know what will happen if there is war in the Gulf and thousands flee to us," he added.

Jordanian officials have said they expect up to 600,000 refugees. U.N. officials say up to two million might flee.

About 7,000 Asians a day, including 2,500 Indians, are crossing into Jordan and an equal number are flying home.

Several thousand Arab refugees, mostly Egyptians, are also passing through Jordan daily on their way home.

Nine Bangladeshis were killed and 65 people, including Bangladeshis, Sri Lankans and Indians, were injured in two bus accidents on road from the border to Azraq Sunday, police said.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King condoles Rousan family

IRBID (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday delegated the governor of Irbid to offer his condolences to Al Rousan family on the death of retired army General Subhi Al Rousan. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan delegated the chief of police in Irbid to offer condolences.

Abul Huda receives ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Transport and Communications Nabil Abul Huda received in separate meetings Monday the ambassadors of Cuba, Chile and Lebanon to Jordan. Abul Huda discussed with the ambassadors ways to enhance cooperation between these countries and Jordan, particularly in the fields of transport and communications.

Arabiya visits Maan governorate

MAAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat Monday visited Maan Governorate to acquaint himself with the agricultural situation and projects in the governorate. Arabiyat met Maan Governor Eid Al Qataneb and reviewed with him projects carried out to combat drought such as building earth dams, maintaining water canals and exploring new water resources. Arabiyat also visited projects carried out by the ministry in Al Qasima, Hida and Al Shobak agricultural stations.

Faqir takes part in Libya meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs Ali Al Faqir is in Tripoli, Libya, to take part in the fourth conference of Islamic Da'wa. The five-day conference will discuss Islamic Da'wa affairs and the latest developments in the region. Faqir is accompanied to the conference by head of the ministry's Documentation and Da'wa Affairs Department Ibrahim Al Qaisi and the ministry's Administrative Director Samih Athamneh.

Brotherhood commemorates Intifada

KARAK (Petra) — The Muslim Brotherhood organised a public rally in the city of Karak Sunday evening to commemorate the 1000th day of the Intifada and to voice support for Iraq in its fight against foreign aggression. Brotherhood deputies Ahmad Kafawin and Yusef Al Athem stressed that the problems and hardships facing the Arab and Muslim nation can be solved through Islam. The two deputies landed Jordan's stand on the

Gulf crisis under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein. They warned of the enemies' plans to Judaize the Arab lands and expel the Palestinian people from their land. They stressed the need to support the Palestinians in their holy war and to stand beside Iraq in countering the imperialist aggression.

Ration cards can be obtained till Oct. 31

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Supply Ibrahim Ayyoub announced Monday the period assigned for distributing food ration cards would be extended till October 31. In a communique issued to the committees entrusted with distributing cards, Ayyoub said this would give a chance to citizens to renew their family registration books which are a requirement for getting the ration cards. The ministry started early this month to distribute ration cards after the government decided to have a two-tier price for sugar, rice and powdered milk — one subsidised and the other at market rates — and allocated certain quantities of each for every family member.

Exporters offer medicine to Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Exporters Society Monday presented medicine worth JD 100,000 to be added to the third charity convoy that left Monday to Iraq to support the steadfastness of the Iraqi people. An official source at the society said this shipment of medicines was the first donation by the society and would be followed soon by another one which would include medicine and food supplies.

People's Army recruits graduate

DEIR ABI SAEED (Petra) — Two batches of People's Army recruits graduated Monday. One batch was from the Jadita district in Irbid Governorate and the other from North Shuneh in the Jordan Valley region. The recruits received training in the use of light weapons, civil defence and rescue operations.

Public holiday announced

AMMAN (Petra) — Monday Oct. 1, 1990 is to be a public holiday in Jordan in observance of the Prophet Mohammad's birthday, according to an official statement issued Sunday. It said that all government departments and public institutions would remain closed on that day and public and private organisations would organise special ceremonies in observance of the anniversary.

Abu Taleb receives British delegation

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb Monday received head of the British Royal College of Defence Studies, teachers' and students' delegation which arrived in Amman Monday afternoon on a several-day visit to the Kingdom.

The military situation in the region and issues of common interest were reviewed at the meeting which was attended by several of the chief of staff's assistants, the commander of the Royal Air Force, the British ambassador to Jordan and the British military attaché in Amman.

The delegation was briefed on the establishment and the development of the Jordanian Armed Forces and on the region's strategic importance.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- * Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- * Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Department of Antiquities' Registration and Research Centre, Jabal Amman.
- * Islamic book exhibition at the Yarmouk University.
- * Plastic art exhibition at the Jordan Plastic Art Association.

- * German film entitled "Stockert" at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.



DONATION FOR EVACUEES — The Young Men Christian Association (YMCA) has donated \$20,000 to the Middle East Council of Churches and said it was hoping to raise another \$500,000 soon in contributions to help the evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq. YMCA's president in Jordan, Dr. Ra'ouf Abu Jaber, made the announcement after handing over a cheque for the

sum of \$20,000 to the president of the Middle East Council of Churches in Jordan Foad Farraj. Abu Jaber said that YMCA in Jordan was in contact with YMCA headquarters in Geneva and elsewhere to raise additional funds for the evacuees. He said that the YMCA in Jordan had been promised \$500,000 from YMCA around the world.

Jordan Times

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Leap towards peace

FRENCH President Francois Mitterrand's proposal for a four-stage peace plan to solve conflicts in the Middle East is one of the most significant developments that have come out of the Gulf crisis in date. It is also a crucial step for any constructive effort to solve all the area's problems peacefully and honourably.

Judging by the few details that emerged on the proposed plan last night, it may be premature to forecast whether the initiative will make it to the top of the ladder in efforts to reach a settlement, or it will be rejected out of hand by the two sides on each end of the conflict's suspenseful scale. Whichever way things go, however, the proposal is most likely to remain as an important yardstick for all the protagonists to consider and act on.

The fact that all details and thoughts are still not known about the plan does not mean that it cannot serve as a basis for future — or immediate — political work. Nor can its significance escape the attention of all the players involved in the huge mess that is called the Gulf crisis.

For one thing, its author is no less than the French president — a man who not only knows the Middle East and its problems very well but who is now also directly involved in the conflict. For another, Mitterrand would not have authored such a proposal had he not consulted with his allies in the West and sensed the pulse of others before hand.

As far as Iraq is concerned, the plan should have its merits and strengths. After "confirming its intentions" to withdraw from Kuwait, Baghdad can look kindly on and forward to stages that the plan is essentially made up of. A democratic sovereignty of Kuwait; meaning basically that the return of the Sabah family is not a *sine qua non*. A direct link between a solution to the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian and Lebanese problems, based, most importantly, on the need for a Palestinian state and meeting the aspirations of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples. Third, future agreements on armament control and removal of mass destructive weapons from the Arab region — from Morocco to Iran. And fourth, guarantees against military attacks on Iraq in the intervening period. Iraq might also look kindly on the plan for what was not mentioned in it — or deliberately left out. The questions of a special status between Iraq and a sovereign Kuwait, the Buhayan and Warb islands, the demarcation of new borders and the setting up of a pan-Arab fund for economic cooperation and development, or more precisely, the fair distribution of Arab wealth and know-how.

What is in the plan for the West? Withdrawal from Kuwait, the release of all foreigners, the implementation of U.N. resolutions, saving face and, most importantly, the prevention of war and bringing about lasting peace and stability to a region that is vital to the West's and the whole world's strategic interests.

We in Jordan, as in Iraq, as in many other parts of the Arab World, have not been seeing eye to eye with the French on their policy in the Gulf. At times we have even found it most difficult to understand their positions on the crisis. But now, with this initiative, President Mitterrand has taken a big step towards restoring confidence in France's ability and intentions to work with the Arabs for the common good of all. His peace plan is indeed worthy of pursuing and building upon as a genuine way out of the Gulf's terrible mess.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A decision by the U.N. Security Council expected Tuesday on the question of imposing an air embargo on Iraq will bring to the world one of two things: war or peace, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. The paper said that Tuesday will see whether the United States can impose its will on Moscow, Paris, London and Peking altogether, forcing them to impose a new form of sanction on Iraq, and the Security Council meeting will be the final test before the world community, directing it towards war or peace. Should the council agree on an air embargo, war would become inevitable, because this decision simply means strangling Iraq, a move which will be opposed and confronted by the Iraqi people through conflict, the paper said. The paper said imposing an air embargo on Iraq is tantamount to the declaration of war not only on Iraq but on the millions of Arabs and Muslims around the world. It will be a war waged by the devil and the evil forces against faith and the faithful in which various weapons of mass destruction will be used. It said, that such a war could not be limited in place or time or weaponry, because the Arabs and Muslims everywhere will take up arms against the aggressors not only in the Gulf region, but any place in the world where interests of the various invading nations are located. Millions of Arabs and Muslims, the paper added, are now ready to confront the enemy any place and any time.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily described Saudi Arabia's decision to cut off oil supplies to Jordan and to reduce the number of Jordanian diplomats in Riyadh as a grave blunder which would do no good to the Saudis. Tareq Masarweh says that Jordan will not kneel to pressure although the Kingdom stands to lose a great deal from implementing the embargo on Iraq, and the return of its expatriates working in the Gulf countries. The writer says that Saudi Arabia has been provoking differences with the Yemenis in the south and the Jordanians in the north for no reason, and they have been reassured in their new policies by the presence in the Arabian Peninsula of foreign forces with their weapons allegedly to defend Saudi Arabia. Jordan as a sovereign nation, and its people who have representatives in Parliament and democratic rule, have decided to oppose the presence in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf of foreign forces; and this is Jordan's views although they might not please the United States or its allies, the writer notes. He says that this stand can not be changed in order to win the favour of the Gulf countries, or to appease the United States. If the Gulf countries used to supply Jordan with financial assistance, he adds, it is in implementation of Arab League resolutions and not doled to Jordan by any Arab ruler. Masarweh notes that the Jordanian people, he says, realise the great sacrifice that will have to be offered as a result of their political stand, but will remain steadfast like the Palestinian people who have been holding out and struggling through their intifada against all odds.

Al Dastour called in its editorial for a political solution for the Gulf crisis and echoed His Majesty King Hussein's views that a war in the Gulf would result in untold devastation for the whole world. The paper repeated the King's warnings to the American people against waging a war or giving in to extremist policies, and said that Washington can achieve no gains from its on-going short-sighted policies in our region.

The View from Fourth Circle

Margaret, Popeye and the end of colonialism

By Rami G. Khouri

AMERICANS who still have trouble understanding why so many Arabs vehemently oppose the American-led military force in the Gulf should take a moment to assess the astounding and disgraceful performance of the American government on Sept. 18. On that day, U.S. State Department spokesman Margaret Tutwiler said the United States was "surprised and dismayed" at the fact that Jordan hosted a conference of pan-Arab leftist and nationalist forces, noting that "hosting the conference is very hard for us to understand."

I now know, for perhaps the first time in my life, how the people of Vietnam felt when they were confronted with the tremendous firepower of the American armed forces, combined with the tremendous arrogance of the American political leadership and a shameful yet powerful penchant for hypocrisy, racism, ignorance and double standards. I now know what drove the Vietnamese to use their bicycles to defeat the most sophisticated weapons the world had ever invented. And I know why the Vietnamese won, and the Americans lost.

Tutwiler said the U.S. was "appalled" by statements by delegates at the Amman conference to the effect that the Arabs should use all available weapons against Iraq. What does the United States expect Arabs to do if the U.S. attacks an Arab country? Cheer for the Americans? Buy U.S. war bonds? Why can the United States and its allies defend themselves collectively, but the Arabs should not be able to do so?

Tutwiler said the overt anti-Arabism at the conference was not surprising. Well done,

Margaret; for once, an American official correctly read an Arab sentiment. The anti-Americanism around us and within us did not suddenly spring out of an emotional frenzy or a political void. It is the logical and natural consequence of several consecutive generations of despair and frustration throughout the Arab World, largely caused by American support for Israel which maintains the region in a static state of political stalemate, with the official American policy being that Israel must remain militarily stronger than all the combined Arab states around it. And what, then, are we supposed to do, send the Americans a thank-you note for ravaging the lives of hundreds of millions of Arabs for three generations? Tutwiler said that statements issued at the conference were "inflammatory." If we are to get into the inflammatory Deeds Department, it would behoove American officials who have sufficient dignity left to stand up and address the world to try to understand how we have been inflamed by nearly a century of arrogance, duplicity and hostility by a succession of Western imperial powers (mainly England, France, the United States and Israel) who insist on viewing the Arabs from the perspective of Western colonial, imperial, economic and geo-strategic interests.

It is inflammatory, we believe, to be duplicitous liars, as the English and French were during World War I, when they laid the seeds for the problems that have faced the Arabs since. It is inflammatory for the United States to provide the virtually unquestioning political, economic and military support for Israel which maintains the longest military occupation of the 20th

century, keeps five million Palestinians in a state of disenfranchisement, and fuels the sort of anger which we have seen activated in many parts of the Arab World since early August.

It is also inflammatory for the United States to complain about public meetings in newly democratising Arab countries just because the tone of those meetings happens to reflect the powerful sense of anti-Americanism which dominates much of the Arab World. Why does the United States celebrate democracy in Eastern Europe, but complain about democracy in the Arab World? What are we supposed to think of this latest racist double standard from the land of Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Jefferson? That our Arab democracy must advocate American and British interests if it is to have political legitimacy and human value? Is our freedom and democracy only valid if we follow the sick example of some others in the Arab World who sell their souls and the nationalistic memories of their grandparents for a promise of American dollars and all the bot dogs you can eat?

Tutwiler claimed that the overriding threat in the region was "Iraq's unbridled ambition, evidence by its invasion and occupation of neighbouring Kuwait." Certainly, the Iraqi invasion must be reversed, and sovereignty must be restored to the Kuwaiti people, on the basis of U.N. resolution. But the Arabs could achieve this, if the Western powers leave us alone for long enough to do so.

"What's the real overriding threat in the region? It is nearly a century of arrogant Western powers who think they can manipulate the peoples, borders, resources and political alliances of the Arab World in

a manner that almost completely disregards the true sentiments and aspirations of the Arab themselves, in favour of the political, security and economic objectives of the Western powers. The real threat in the region is the continuation of a political order which the British and French established here earlier this century, and which the Americans and Israelis have maintained — a failed and humiliating political order which has seen the entire Arab World enter the last decade of this century in a state of disappointment, confusion, regression and anger.

The most disgraceful and sad statement which Tutwiler made was that "the majority of Arab opinion, as embodied by the Arab League's recent actions and results" seems to support the American view of events in the region. This statement shows that the United States is once again making the same mistake it has always made around the world, especially in the Arab and Islamic worlds: it is placing its faith in leaderships who are not elected and who are not in any way accountable to their people. If the Shah of Iran were alive, we would hear the same nonsense from Washington, that he represented his people, while in fact he obviously did not. Let the Arab people speak freely, without domestic or international interference, and then let us see how many Arabs support the American armada and how many support the dream of an Arab Nation that is free and self-respecting.

We have the extraordinary situation today where the United States, an important source of global democratic tradition, is criticising the fact that Jordan, a newly democratising country, allowed a conference to be held which very

accurately expressed grassroots sentiment in many parts of the Arab World — while at the same time the United States puts its faith in the positions of other Arab leaders whose people, in almost all cases, are not allowed to express themselves in freedom and are not allowed to participate in any sort of domestic political process which could give life to the great American principles of the consent of the governed or the accountability of public officials. George Washington must be feeling very uncomfortable in his grave. Margaret Tutwiler must feel like a fool.

The message from much of the Arab World is that the conflict over Kuwait must be resolved according to international law, and will be resolved by the Arab themselves — but that the conflict which the entire Arab World has fought with the Western imperial powers for most of this century is far and away the more threatening and immediate problem which must be addressed today. In the final analysis, Kuwait and other regional issues are symptoms and consequences of the legacy of Western imperial and colonial manipulation of the people and resources and national identity of 200 million Arabs.

The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait highlighted the deep structural problems in the Arab World that must be resolved in order for us to have true justice and long-term stability and security. Margaret Tutwiler highlighted the fact that one of the root causes of these problems is a long tradition of Western duplicity, inequity, racism and shameful double standards which have finally driven many Arabs — especially those who are free to express themselves in their own countries —

to stand up and tell the West that the days of colonialism and imperialism have come to an end, and that the Arabs will not be the world's last colonies. Furthermore, faced with the combination of arrogance, lack of historical understanding and simplistic militarism which Margaret Tutwiler symbolised, many Arabs — especially those who are free to express themselves in their own country — have decided to stand up for once and speak honestly to the West.

Militarism and war should be avoided at all costs. But if they come, as they did in Vietnam and Afghanistan, they will simply prove once again that political disputes based on a denial of justice cannot be resolved by threatening or killing people. They can only be resolved by removing the causes of the injustices, and the causes of the injustices and the internal imbalances in the Middle East stem largely from the Western habit of military and political intrusion into our affairs.

The United States and the West must understand this point, and behave accordingly. Or, they will face the humiliating and certain prospect of being beaten once again in the Third World — not by Asian people with narrow eyes and wide-brimmed hats riding bicycles, but by two hundred million dark-skinned Arabs wearing head-dresses and headscarves and riding on camels and donkeys.

But things need not come to this. Why risk the massive damage to all of a Gulf war that could spread to other parts of the region, when our problems could be resolved if West stopped playing Popeye Hour, and instead treated us with reason and fairness, instead of with contempt and racist double standards?

South African lesson: sanctions alone may be too little

By Maggie Jackson
The Associated Press

LONDON — World support, swift imposition, tough enforcement: sanctions against Iraq seem to have many of the ingredients which one group of experts say were missing in the case of South Africa.

However, experts caution against relying on sanctions alone. "Sanctions are a very blunt instrument," said Joseph Hanlin, coordinator of "South Africa: The sanctions report".

"They can be made to work... but they've never been an instant solution to anything," he said in an interview.

Hanlin and 20 others with expertise in sanctions spent more than a year in 1988-89, under the auspices of the Commonwealth, evaluating actions against South Africa.

They concluded that it was a mistake to impose the sanctions gradually over decades. Further, the measures were poorly enforced and only partial. Significantly, South Africa was never barred from exporting gold, diamonds and platinum.

Even so, the study said, sanctions did create pressure for change.

"After a decade of talking, negotiations became serious when Pretoria was under pressure. The sanctions were an essential part of the negotiating process, not an alternative

to it," the report said. But "it is important to reiterate that sanctions — and especially partial sanctions — will not work on their own."

Both Iraq and South Africa are ripe targets for sanctions, as they are small, dependent on trade, and still industrialising.

Export sanctions were most effective against bulk products such as coal and fruit, which were plentiful around the world and easily detected in transport, the study said.

Nearly 60 per cent of South Africa's export earnings come from gold, platinum and diamonds, which were not subject to sanctions and in any case would be easier to smuggle.

With Iraq, only one export counts: oil, which is bulky and reasonably plentiful. Oil brought in \$40 million a day before the Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, paying for imports of industrial raw materials and 80 per cent of Iraq's food.

Under the sanctions approved by the United Nations Security Council, Iraq's oil pipelines have been shut off, and tankers have been blocked from its harbours.

Iraq cannot give oil away — despite President Saddam Hussein's offer of free petroleum to friendly Third World states.

South Africa never experienced embargoes of that intensity.

India imposed the first sanc-

tions against South Africa in 1946, and many countries have followed suit. Reduced trade by nine industrialised countries alone between 1983-87 cut South African export earnings by seven per cent, the report said.

Yet lax enforcement and measures such as false labels weakened the campaign.

"It is clear from our analysis that sanctions will not be effective if imposed piecemeal over decades," said the report. It compared sanctions to antibiotics: Weak does breed resistance.

The report also recommended public government commitment to sanctions and tough enforcement.

Academic specialists on the Middle East say it's still not certain whether sanctions will work against Iraq.

"My feeling is that we won't succeed in sealing the borders 100 per cent," says Rosemary Hollis, an expert in Middle Eastern international relations. "However, one big thing Iraq can't get out of is oil, and this causes money problems."

That is crucial, says Sir John Moberly of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, an independent think-tank, because "you need money to break embargoes."

It cost South Africa \$25 billion from 1973-84 to defeat an embargo on oil imports, the study said. Despite a manda-

tory world arms embargo — the only full United Nations action in this case — South Africa found ways to buy components.

Even before the Kuwait crisis, Iraq suffered shortages of hard currency because of lower oil prices.

What may prove crucial in Iraq is a factor highlighted by the sanctions report — morale.

In South Africa, the black majority's opposition to apartheid helped change policy, the report said. However, it said that more effective sanctions would have had a greater impact on the living standards of whites and undermined their will to hold out, the report said.

In Iraq, experts find it hard to predict the effect of sanctions on the people, who have virtually no political power, and on those in the inner circle of Hussein's government of minority Sunni Arab Muslims.

Philip Robins, head of the Royal Institute's Middle East division, believes Saddam enhanced his popularity at home by seizing Kuwait. The release of Iraqi prisoners of war from Iran — even at the cost of giving away all the gains of an eight-year war — was also apt to be popular, Robins said.

He and others believe that when sanctions bite, those in power will receive available supplies. "I don't think the world is going to starve Iraq into submission," he says.

A superpower with a roving begging bowl

By Jim Drinkard
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Gulf crisis has intensified a new United States dilemma: How a country can at once be both a superpower and a super-pauper.

Experts agree the United States is the only nation that can project significant military might throughout the world. Yet it also is the world's largest debtor nation, facing a staggering annual deficit, and now the risk of recession.

Paying the price for the international effort to squeeze Iraq makes a difficult situation even worse — and President George Bush's administration signaled last week it would turn to unconventional means: Direct aid from allies.

No sooner had Secretary of State James Baker and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady returned home with billions of dollars in allied aid pledges than a top state department official said Bush would rely increasingly on such approaches.

"A kind of a new invention in the practice of diplomacy," said Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger. "I would expect you will see this administration approaching foreign policy questions more and more in that direction."

The shift was welcomed in Congress, where lawmakers are struggling to find room in a deficit-ridden budget to provide additional foreign aid to emerging democracies in Eastern Europe and Central America.

"It's not a question of being mercenary, or 'rent-a-superpower,'" said Senator Richard Lugar.

"We are the only ones who can do this... at this moment. We are unique," Lugar said of the massive, U.S.-led effort to oppose Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

Some, however, questioned the new strategy.

"This is a band-aid approach," said Robert Kurz,

a former congressional foreign policy aide who now is at the Brookings Institution. "It's a very, very shortsighted view of the nature of the crisis."

But that was not the prevailing view in Congress.

Representative David Obey acknowledged the need for outside help and said it may be necessary again in the future "for limited purposes, for a limited period."

Obey added, however, that the dependence on other countries limits U.S. flexibility. He blamed the dependence on budget deficits run up under the last administration.

"Budget deficits and trade deficits have drained this country of the ability to control its own policy and its own destiny," he said.

Whatever the cause, the United States is confronted not only with the sudden costs of a huge military deployment in the Gulf, estimated at \$15 billion over the coming year, but also the need to help allies who have been militarily and economically threatened by the crisis.

In addition, the United States owes some \$500 million in unpaid past dues to the United Nations, an embarrassing situation at a time when Bush has relied on the world body as the hub of his diplomatic efforts against Iraq.

Baker and Brady returned home with \$20 billion in pledges. Roughly half of that will go to aid countries harmed by the United Nations embargo imposed against Iraq. The other half will go to offset U.S. costs.

Bush also wants to forgive \$6.7 billion in Egyptian debt as a means of rewarding Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's leadership in the Gulf crisis.

Frontline states such as Turkey and Jordan have been hit hard economically by the Iraqi embargo and are asking for aid and Israel is claiming the need for new weapons to maintain its security in the increasingly volatile region.

Iraq says it rejected 'offer'

(Continued from page 1)

trip) and any other issue," INA said.

Aziz Sunday told Perez de Cuellar it was important for him to travel aboard an Iraqi plane for security reasons.

"I regret to inform you of the Iraqi government's decision not to take part in the present session of the General Assembly unless the U.S. government lifts restrictions preventing the Iraqi foreign minister and his accompanying delegation from arriving according to normal means and aboard an Iraqi plane," he said in his letter to the secretary-general.

Baghdad has banned most Western and Japanese men from leaving Iraq and Kuwait and is holding hundreds of them at military and civilian sites to deter possible attacks by the multinational force in Saudi Arabia.

In another development, France told Iraq that no apology for previous action would deflect French demands for the liberation of all foreigners held by Baghdad.

Despite a report by INA, the French Foreign Ministry said it had "no confirmation through official channels" that Iraq had apologised for the ransacking by its troops of the French embassy residence in Kuwait.

"In any case," an official statement said, "(France) would not be satisfied and expects Iraq to immediately release the three people kidnapped in the ... incident as well as all hostages, French and foreign, who are unjustly held."

Iraqi troops in Kuwait City burst into the French embassy residence on Sept. 14 and ransacked the building, seizing three French nationals who had taken refuge there to avoid being rounded up as hostages.

Israel to demolish homes

(Continued from page 1)

20,000 Palestinians, was under curfew Monday for the fifth day while soldiers combed the area for suspects.

Associated Press reporters were turned away from the camp by soldiers because of the curfew.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens was quoted in the Hebrew daily Hadashot Monday as demanding the expulsion of those involved in the killing "if there is not enough evidence to bring the suspects to trial."

The newspaper said Arens ordered the army's legal officers to check out ways to step up the expulsion process, which can take months because of appeal procedures.

Israel has expelled 61 Palestinians for "instigating and perpetrating anti-Israeli violence" since the uprising began in December 1987. The last expulsion was in August 1989.

Previous expulsions of activists, usually to Lebanon, have sparked further violence and brought human rights criticism of Israel from the United States and other Western countries.

Under military regulations, homeowners have 48 hours to appeal to the supreme court against demolition orders. The court has overturned only one such order since the uprising erupted.

Legal challenges against expulsion can take up to a year.

Jordan Times
Tel: No. 667171

Jordanians and Palestinians feel the pangs of the Gulf crisis

By Terry Leonard
The Associated Press

AL WIHADAT, Jordan — In this dusty Palestinian camp, where slogans of rebellion are scrawled on the walls, a soft-spoken victim of Iraq's takeover of Kuwait calculated the hefty losses of his young life with a shrug and a prayer for peace.

Isam Al-Absi is 24, homeless, stateless and quite suddenly poor. In the fallout of Saddam Hussein's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait, he's among the faceless numbers forced to forage on their wits, without recourse to government aid.

While world attention has fo-

cused on the military standoff in the Gulf and the plight of Asian refugees in desert camps, tens of thousands of Jordanians and Palestinians have quietly returned from Kuwait only to find jobs scarce and hope fleeting.

"In Kuwait we were stable," Al Absi said. "We were set up in our jobs. We had good careers, cars, homes. Everything was complete for us. And now, we don't have a home, we don't have careers, we don't have cars."

The young civil engineer, whose family fled their homeland in 1948, said he left Kuwait last Tuesday, reached Jordan Wednesday and hopes eventually

to join his family stranded in Cairo, where they were vacationing when Iraq took over Kuwait. Authorities in Amman estimate that half the 120,000 Jordanians working in Kuwait and an unknown number of Palestinians who were also there will return to Jordan, itself facing economic catastrophe from the Gulf crisis.

Finance Minister Basel Jaradat said Jordan is considering what it can do to help. But for now it has no aid programme.

It's worried about how to absorb such huge numbers in a country where unemployment is already officially estimated at 15 per cent and where the economy is teetering on the brink of collapse.

"Nobody can find a job here," Mohammed Sabti said glumly as he stood before his family's cement-bloc house on a rocky hillside in the small town of Awagan.

The 22-year-old Jordanian said he lost his job selling used cars in Kuwait because all the cars were stolen from the dealership after the invasion.

Sabti, who holds a university degree in hotel management, said he has failed to find a job in Jordan and plans to return to occupied Kuwait in two weeks to look for work.

"If I could find a job here that would pay a salary of even JD 100 (\$160) a month I'd stay," he said. Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the U.N. secretary-general's special envoy for humanitarian assistance related to the Gulf crisis, said last week that the Palestinian and Jordanian workers in the Gulf, along with thousands of Asian refugees, have to be considered victims of the crisis.

"For all these people it's a broken dream. All of them tell the same story. They became

destitute overnight," he said.

Al Absi said that before the invasion he had money in the bank and a promising career.

But now, even if he could withdraw his frozen savings from occupied Kuwait, he'd lose more than 90 per cent of the value of the 3,000 Kuwaiti dinars on deposit.

Before the invasion, the official rate of exchange was one Kuwaiti dinar to 13 Iraqi, but now the occupation government has set the rate at one-to-one. Even if he could get that amount, it's against the law to take Iraqi dinars out of the country.

"I don't think anyone who stands on the side of truth is in favour of the invasion. But we're also against any harm to Iraq. We want this to end peacefully," Al Absi noted.

He said he supports the U.N. sanctions against Iraq only if they will lead to a peaceful solution.

"But food and medicine must not be forbidden because there are people in Kuwait and in Iraq and they shouldn't die hungry or from disease," he added.

Al Absi shrugged, then chuckled hesitantly when asked what he'd do next.

"I'm depending on my certificate as an engineer. I have good experience with computers so I could work in Egypt," he said.

But he noted that Egypt may not give him a visa because he's a Palestinian.

"My aim is to go to my parents. They, my brother and my sisters are in Cairo. They don't have enough money. They have nothing. So I should go and give them some clothes and as much money as I have," he said.

"I can't stay here. I can't go back to Kuwait," he said, shrugging. "If Egypt won't let me in, I don't know what I'll do."

Arab leaders should be united but...

By Dalia Baligh
The Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan — Egypt and Gulf states including Saudi Arabia are punishing Sudan for supporting Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, by withholding much-needed food and financial assistance.

The unannounced "mini-embargo" has not abated even after Sudan's military government, under pressure from the United States and Libya, moderated its strong backing of the Iraqi invasion.

Western diplomats who discussed the subject were unsure of the amount of goods and money involved. But they said oil was included, as well as food. Khartoum wanted to counter a famine forecast for next year.

Saudi Arabia pulled back a shipment of 40,000 tons of wheat flour. Oil supplies from a number of countries are halted and several development projects financed by Gulf states frozen.

The Saudis no longer issue visas to Sudanese, cutting off a major source of foreign exchange sent home by expatriate workers.

Members of the Arab League split virtually down the middle after Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2. Almost half, including Sudan, supported or tolerated his move — the others led by Egypt and Saudi Arabia strongly rejected it.

The Saudis translated their disapproval into action. Palestinian sources report that Riyadh froze payments to

the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Jordan's last Saudi aid payment was said to be money allocated last spring, and Amman announced at the weekend that the Saudis were cutting off oil deliveries.

Diplomatic sources in Saudi Arabia said almost all diplomats in the embassies of Yemen and Jordan were being expelled. And Riyadh eliminated preferential treatment given to citizens of Yemen, causing major problems for hundreds of thousands of Yemeni guest workers and entrepreneurs.

Economic and political isolation began for Sudan, one of the world's poorest countries, even before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Human rights abuses by Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan El-Bashir's 15-month-old military government, its failure to end the 7-year-old civil war in the south and its inept handling of a bankrupt economy had sparked widespread criticism and loss of most Western aid.

Aid from Washington's stopped under a U.S. law cutting off countries where democratic rule ends in military coups, as happened in Khartoum on June 30, 1989. The European Community withheld around \$240 million for human rights shortcomings. Libya and Egypt stopped sending Sudan weapons after El-Bashir failed to act seriously to end the war. Iraqi arms replaced them.

In general, the strongman's position is precarious. Spiralling inflation and the coming famine have increased

hardships for the 26 million Sudanese. The country can't pay its \$13-billion foreign debt. The International Monetary Fund denounced the junta as uncooperative and threatened to break off talks on rescheduling the debt.

But the new strains in relations with Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and the aid blockade they're causing, will exacerbate the situation so much that Western experts said the future of El-Bashir's rule could be threatened.

Since the invasion, El-Bashir has visited Baghdad several times on the stated grounds of seeking a negotiated settlement. Sudan's government also has organised pro-Saddam demonstrations in Khartoum.

Senior Western diplomats said the unlikely partnership of the United States and Moammar Gadhafi's Libya have manoeuvred El-Bashir into a more neutral position.

The change came in early September when El-Bashir for the first time condemned the invasion, while also denouncing the U.S. — led military buildup in the Gulf. Government-controlled newspapers also started highlighting meetings between government officials and the ambassadors of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, a state that Iraq considers has ceased to exist.

A diplomat said Washington was very concerned about the Sudanese support of Iraq, talked to the government about it and urged it to come out and denounce the invasion.

Another said Gadhafi, who has pressured El-Bashir into signing a series of unity agreements, played a major role.

"We think an important factor was Gadhafi's domineering over El-Bashir. This has resulted in the shift in Sudan's position," the diplomat said.

A third reason for the change, the diplomat said, is El-Bashir's mistaken idea that "if he takes a neutral stance, he can be a negotiator. He has no chance of that. He has no credibility."

Khartoum's official press has been trumpeting plans for El-Bashir to head for the Gulf to find a solution. Diplomatic sources in Riyadh said the Saudis told him he's not welcome.

"I think Sudan's position on the invasion is still a bit in balance with Iraq," said one diplomat, who like the others spoke on condition of anonymity. "I don't think Saudi Arabia is about to forget and forgive."

Col. Martin Malual Arop, a member of the ruling 15-officer Junta, refused to acknowledge a change and said Sudan always supported Kuwait.

"We have the clear statement of the president of Sudan. He said that Sudan abides by United Nations and Arab League resolutions, and Sudan does not encourage big countries to invade small countries," Arop said.

However, Arabs should form a committee and talk to Saddam, so as not to make him obstinate.

What are we doing?

The following letter was written by the president of the Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts. A copy was made available to the Jordan Times.

Dear President Bush:

As a college president with professional and personal ties to the Middle East I feel I must express my concern over the current U.S. involvement there. A good case can be made for the view that your decisive action in the Gulf has up to this point kept the peace. My plea is that peace and not economics, retribution, or national pride continues to be the goal for which U.S. policy strives. While I speak for myself, a student editorial in the first issue of our campus newspaper shows that I am not alone in my concern. In fact, I would argue that our views are characteristic of academic thought leaders across the nation and around the world. My campus, for one, is very worried.

At this point it is not at all clear why we are in the Gulf. We are getting conflicting messages. Is it because we are making the world safe for freedom and democracy? Neither the Kuwaitis or Saudis are known for that and that point is not lost on the common Arab.

Is it because we are protecting the Middle East from a madman? Granted he could wreak a lot of havoc but really, how much permanent damage could he do? He rules over one of the world's smallest populations (17 million) and it has no arms industry and cannot even feed itself. On the other hand he has given many poor Arabs courage, self-esteem, and a vision to live and die for.

Is it because we want to play Santa Claus to our industrial competitors who need Gulf oil? That is certainly generous given our current economic plight at home. It's obvious that even though the U.S. (with 2 per cent of the world's population) uses 35 per cent of the world's oil production, we could get along without Gulf oil even if we didn't want to conserve or find alternative energy sources (which we should).

Is it because we want to protect American lives? Let's remember there were no hostages till we moved in our troops so we must have been willing to pay that price. At this point the best way to preserve American lives is not to war.

Is it because we want to protect a beleaguered Israel? If that were our real motive, we would certainly do all in our power to remain true to our friends of longstanding in the Arab world — not the least of whom is Jordan's King Hussein. With moderates gone, time is against Israel. It will be a question of not if, but when, Israel must make its own peace with the Palestinians or nothing we can do will save it.

Is it because we want to remain number one politically and militarily, if not economically? I hope not because our Judeo-Christian heritage teaches us that, "pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18).

I hope it is not just plain greed that motivates American policy. Are lives of any nation worth sacrificing so that we can maintain our affluent lifestyle? The Arabs see this and loathe our hypocrisy. What else accounts for the inconsistency in the way the U.S. has responded to U.N. resolutions? It moved with alacrity to support Kuwait's territorial integrity while virtually ignoring for more than 20 years U.N. Resolution 242 calling for Israel's withdrawal from the conquest of the Arab West Bank and Gaza Strip. Please address this double standard. Don't defend it; apologise for it. Arabs forgive people of honesty and integrity who make mistakes.

Iraq's Saddam Hussein has definitely been the "bad guy" thus far. Please don't do anything that will give people anywhere in the world an opportunity to think you are competing for the title. Whatever we do must be done in concert with the United Nations and hopefully the Arab League; this is not a situation in which the U.S. should act unilaterally. If we do, we have not learned the lesson of Vietnam. Granted, we have not started a war by invasion (as has Iraq), but let us not start it either by retaliation for incidents or atrocities, large or small, real or imagined. If we are out to find a pretext for battle, one will surely come soon. And it will begin the escalation that will leave thousands dead on both sides of your line in the desert. Remember the lesson of the Iran hostages: don't type isolated incidents. Obviously my great fear is that the current situation could easily get out of hand. For the sake of presumed honour can we risk sacrificing human life in the desert? Or risk the anti-Americanism that would engulf the Arab masses — even in countries where their governments are now pro-U.S.? Or risk unleashing a "holy war" by Islamic fundamentalists that would make the U.S. marine incident in Beirut a match-box toy by comparison?

Keep cool. No one thinks you're a wimp any longer. You've proved your point. Now use our might in the service of a negotiated peace. Be willing to talk anytime, anywhere. Be magnanimous. Avoiding Armageddon and waging peace could be your finest hour.

Lawrence T. Geraty
President

King sees repeat of 1914 events

(Continued from page 1)

East. They will create the very instability which this action was designed to prevent. For these reasons a political solution to the present crisis is imperative.

Since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait did not occur in a vacuum, it cannot be solved in a vacuum. Any solution must address, if not simultaneously at least sequentially, the major underlying causes, namely, the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait, the imbalance of wealth in the area, the unresolved confrontation between Israel, Palestine and the Arab states, and the perils of escalation and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

All of these problems are driven by political differences. To attempt to solve them militarily treats only the symptoms, not the causes, and can only exacerbate the problems, not resolve them.

Because these problems are inter-related, piecemeal solutions are not the answer, as efforts over several years have demonstrated.

This is not as tall an order it sounds, since proposed solutions to

some of these problems already exist in the files of those governments involved. The area is exhausted from the conflicts and tensions it has endured for decades. Most are appalled by the wasteful diversion of so much wealth and energy to the misfortune of war. They are eager to join the rest of the world in its new march towards freedom, justice, and prosperity. Despite the threat of war, the conditions for peace do exist in the Middle East. It is a moment of opportunity which we should all grasp.

Whatever political solution to the immediate crisis might be devised, I believe it imperative that it include a substantial Arab input. Irrespective of the justice of any solution, there must not be room to misrepresent it as a resolution imposed from outside the area. This would only discredit its legitimacy.

Finally, there is one thing of which I am certain. The Middle East cannot afford another war. The world should not impose one on it. I am also certain that it is not beyond the ingenuity of the leaders of this world to devise a peaceful solution to this crisis. May God help us all if they cannot.

Gulf golfing — oil money turns the desert green

By Andrew Quinn
Reuters

DUBAI — This is one corner of the Gulf where U.S. President George Bush might feel right at home.

Rising verdant through the searing heat of the Arabian desert, the Emirates golf club stands as a multi-million-dollar proof of the spectacular wealth of the Gulf countries lined up with the United States against Iraq.

Camels graze forlornly through the club's fences at greens, trees and ponds stocked with thousands of Japanese goldfish.

Drifting sand dunes have been anchored by a lush blanket of grass imported from the U.S. state of Georgia. And one million gallons of water each day from a

nearby desalination plant are buried into the air by a high-tech sprinkler system that keeps nature at bay.

"This is the only real golf course in the Gulf," said general manager Rodney J. Bogg, sitting in an air-conditioned clubhouse designed to resemble a cluster of traditional nomadic tents.

With its 18 holes and manicured fairways, the Emirates Club has put an expensive new spin on Gulf golfing — once played only on flattened tracts of sand that had to be sprayed with oil once a month to keep from blowing away.

The desert course is the brainchild of one of the sheikhs whose families rule the region and control its wealth.

Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid

Al Maktoum, defence minister of the United Arab Emirates and a brother of the ruler of Dubai, dreamed up the golf course as a way of putting Dubai on the sporting map.

The Maktoums, who have also ploughed their oil wealth into one of the world's top stables of race horses, decreed a grass course should be built and put up the \$11 million it took to build it. It was finished in 18 months.

"Sheikh Mohammad built the course... and gave it to Dubai effectively as a gift," Bogg said, adding that the sheikh himself was not a golfer.

Emirates, designed by U.S. golf architect Karl Litten, hosted a European tour event for the first time in March 1989, bringing in many top names with generous

appearance fees.

The planners spared no expense — par for the course in a country that has banked billions selling its oil to the West and Japan.

After shifting 400,000 cubic metres (14 million cubic feet) of sand and slapping a foundation of gravel and fibre-membrane over remaining dunes, the course was seeded with a hybrid grass flown in from Georgia, the state that hosts the U.S. masters at Augusta National.

Sprinklers were run 24 hours a day to give the greensward a chance against the brutal desert heat, and quick-growing trees were planted along the perimeter to provide a break against the sandstorms which buffet the area.

Bogg said early problems —

such as the occasional marauding camel and sudden sand-shifts altering the terrain — were weeded out by the time the late Pakistani leader, Mohammad Zia Ul-Haq, opened the course in March 1988 with a swing of a golden club.

Despite good conditions and year-round sun, the Emirates golf club is finding its hopes of becoming a key stop on the world golf circuit temporarily dimmed by the Gulf crisis.

European golf lovers, who were beginning to make the trek to the desert, are putting off vacation plans while the world awaits a resolution to the confrontation over Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of another oil-rich Emirate, nearby Kuwait.

"Obviously there is an air of

hesitancy," Bogg said. "People see all this news, so they're not going to come."

While overseas visitors may be down, the club has a long list of resident expatriates waiting to join, he said.

Fees are reasonable by world standards at \$3,245 a year per family and \$2,400 for singles, but one round would cost \$270 — the price of a monthly green fee.

And another valuable market sector may be developing. Bogg said the course has been approached by both the U.S. and British embassies to allow high-ranking military officers serving in the Gulf multinational force to use its facilities. Some had already played the course, he said.

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China extends winning streak to 1st 10 golds at Asian Games

PEKING (AP) — Another strongwoman and bogged cyclists extended China's winning streak to the first 10 gold medals of the Asian Games Monday.

Japan appeared likely to break that streak in swimming races Monday night, however. Japanese placed 1-2 in all four qualifying races in the morning.

Taiwan, back in the games for the first time since 1970, won its first medal Monday when Ni Chia-Ping placed second behind China's Xing Liwei in the 56-kilogram division of women's weightlifting.

Xing, the world champion, lifted a total of 190 kilograms (418 pounds) in extending China's streak to four consecutive weightlifting golds. She fell 2.5 kilograms (5.5 pounds) short of the Asian record, but her snatch lift of 85.0 kilograms (187 pounds) broke the Asian mark of 82.5 (181.5) set by China's Bi Caijun in 1989.

Ni lifted 180 kilograms (396 pounds), and Japan's Mami Abe was third with 167.5 (368.5).

In the men's 100-kilometre team time trial cycling race, China's quartet opened up a lead of

more than two minutes after 50 kilometres and held off Mongolia's challenge.

The Chinese finished in 2 hours, 4 minutes, 55.58 seconds, breaking China's 2-year-old Asian record of 2:06:22.5 and its 4-year-old games record of 2:08:28.462. Mongolia was second in 2:06:52.25 and South Korea third in 2:07:32.03.

Chinese coach Shen Jinkang said his racers were too excited in the first 25 kilometres, and that affected their speed at the end, when Mongolia narrowed the gap slightly.

On the opening day of competition Sunday, Chinese athletes captured all eight golds: three in weightlifting, four in swimming and one in men's team gymnastics.

The Games' first winner was Zeng Fen, a 44-kilogram (97-pound) farmer's daughter who lifted a barbell more than twice her weight as the relatively new sport of women's weightlifting made its Asian Games debut.

Japan was next best with four silvers and three bronzes. Although not expected to stack up medals, Kuwait's team-in-ex-

ile proved a crowd favourite during opening ceremonies and then went on to beat Hong Kong 2-1 in soccer Sunday.

Strongwoman Xing surpassed her own world record of 92.5 kilograms (203.5 pounds) in the 44-kilogram weightlifting division with a clean and jerk of 95 kilograms (209 pounds). Her total of 165 (363 pounds) tied her world mark.

The International Weightlifting Federation does not recognise records set at world meets. The performances here automatically become Asian Games records.

China's Xinhua News Agency said the 17-year-old Xing grew up on Hainan Island, where the tough, farming life prepared her for prowess in weightlifting.

Teammate Peng Liping in the 52-kilogram division tied her own world record of 185.0 total kilograms (407 pounds).

Huang Xiaoyu, recovering from appendicitis, won at 48 kilograms with a total lift of 167.5 (368.5 pounds), below her world records.

Competition in another sport making its games debut, kabbadi, opened with China suffering its only major defeat of the day. India downed the Chinese 46-15 in this South Asia sport.

In kabbadi, teams score by touching opponents on the opponent's side of the court. An attacking player must continuously shout "kabbadi, kabbadi," and opponents can eliminate him from the game by holding him down until he has to stop the chant to catch his breath.

In swimming, China may have sounded the death knell for traditional Japanese domination of the sport in Asia. It swept all four events and produced some Asian and games record-breaking times that approached world marks.

Olympic silver medalist Zhuang Yong led a 1-2 Chinese

finish in the women's 100-metre freestyle in 55.30 seconds, with Japan's Suzu Chiba third in 57.06.

Chinese women finished 1-2 again in the 400-metre individual medley, with Lin Li winning in 4 minutes, 39.88 seconds and Yan Ming taking the silver in 4:46.97. Yan had set the games record of 4:52.43 in 1986.

The Chinese men had tighter races. Xie Jun edged Japan's Tomohiro Noguchi 1:51.90 to 1:52.48 in the 200-metre freestyle, and Chen Jianhong outpaced Japan's Kenji Watanabe 1:02.60 to 1:03.12 in the 100-metre breaststroke.

The Chinese men's gymnastics team amassed 293.650 points, beating the 289.500 of Japan and 288.350 of South Korea.

Political rivals North and South Korea and China and Taiwan met each other Sunday in the opening women's softball games. South Korea edged North Korea 1-0 before suffering a 10-0 loss to China. Taiwan beat China 2-0 on two first-inning runs. Japan also beat North Korea, 9-1.

North Korea is returning to the games after boycotting the 1986 games in Seoul and the 1984 and 1988 Olympics. It is expected to emerge near the top of the medals race along with South Korea.

Taiwan is back after a longer absence. It last competed in 1970, as the Republic of China, but after Peking's entry it was sidelined by a dispute over its use of the name China. It competes now under the name "Chinese Taipei."

In men's field hockey, Malaysia blanked China 3-0. South Korea trounced Hong Kong 8-0 and Pakistan drubbed Japan 11-1.

Nearly 4,700 athletes are expected to battle in 27 official and two exhibition sports in the games.

Cypriot wins Cyprus International Rally

NICOSIA (R) — London-based Cypriot Dimis Mavropoulos drove his Audi Quattro to victory in the three-day Cyprus International Rally, clinching a title that has eluded him for 15 years.

Fellow Cypriot Vahan Terzian in a Honda Civic was second, just over three minutes behind the leader, with Soviet driver Alexander Artemenko third in a Lada Samara, nearly 20 minutes back.

Early leaders Harald Demuth of West Germany and Swede Ola Stromberg both retired on the second leg. Demuth with gearbox trouble on his Mitsubishi VR4 while Stromberg's Ford Sierra Cosworth hit a tree. He was unhurt.

Mavropoulos had led the rally, the final round in the 1990 European Championship, from halfway through the first leg Friday, closely followed by Terzian.

Cypriot Andreas Tsouloftas in a Lancia Delta Integrale was fourth while another Soviet driver, Sergei Alvasov also in a Lada Samara finished fifth and Manolis Panagiotopoulos from Greece sixth.

Only 34 of the 73 starters finished the 870 kilometre course through the island's rugged Troodos Mountains to the Mediterranean coast.

Tapie defends Beckenbauer as Marseille suffers loss

FRANZ Beckenbauer, hired to coach Marseille to European glory, suffered the worst possible start in his new role when the French champions suffered their first league defeat of the season.

Marseille's millionaire club President Bernard Tapie jumped to the defence of his new technical director Monday, although the man who led West Germany to World Cup success appeared unruffled by Saturday's 1-0 home defeat to lowly Cannes.

The fans' response was to chant the name of former coach Gerard Gili, who resigned last week after being displaced by Beckenbauer.

"I'm sorry for them. But we shall start working now. Marseille has now become my problem," said Beckenbauer, whose charges are three points clear of Monaco, their opponents next Friday.

Tapie said: "Under Gili, Marseille have beaten no one that matters at European level, no Italians, no Germans, no English."

"If we hope to beat AC Milan or Bayern Munich one day, we need great players but also a perfect organisation. That's what I trust Beckenbauer to set up," he said. "Beckenbauer is better than Gili was. He just needs time."

Unfashionable Kaiserslautern continue to surprise both the opposition and themselves with their early-season form in the West German Bundesliga.

Their 7-3 hammering of Bayer Uerdingen lifted them back to the top of the league on goal difference after Bayern Munich were held to a disappointing 2-2 home draw by Bochum.

"We are not a top-class side. We have just come fast out of our blocks this season," said Captain Stefan Kuntz, whose team finished in the lower half of the table last season.

"Only when we have a similarly good number of points halfway through the season can we set our sights on different targets."

Bayern, hit by injuries, appeared to be suffering the after-effects of their stunning 3-2 underdog win in Cyprus against Apollon Nicosia in the European Cup.

"We all felt flat," said Bayern's Thomas Strunz.

Marco van Basten and Ruud Geulth have rediscovered their best form after a disappointing World Cup for the Netherlands to give AC Milan a perfect start to the Italian League campaign.

Van Basten, who scored his second goal of the season to put Milan ahead in the 2-1 win over Fiorentina praised Geulth: "Ruud only needs to score to definitely reach full flight."

The European Cup holders have won all three games and are five points clear of champions Napoli whose poor start reflects their reliance on Argentine star Diego Maradona, struggling to overcome a back injury.

An angry Maradona said after Napoli's 1-0 defeat at promoted Parma: "If my team lose it's Maradona's fault. If we win it's the whole team's merit."

Soviet International Sergei Mikhailichenko scored in Sampdoria's 2-1 win over Bologna, which put the European Cup Winners' Cup holders joint second with Pisa and Atalanta, a point behind Milan.

Although Barcelona kept their 100 per cent record to remain two points clear at the top of the Spanish League their performance was far from impressive.

A goal by Julio Salinas after seven minutes earned Barcelona the points at home to Real Valladolid but the match turned into a dull struggle.

"In the end it's the result which counts," said manager Johann Cruyff after his side's fourth win in four games.

"We played well in the first half and the only thing missing was a second goal."

Atletico Madrid club President Jesus Gil spent half an hour trying to inspire his players after their 1-1 draw at home to humble Tenerife Sunday — a result which leaves them three points adrift.

"I just asked the players to fight to the death and to be united," Gil said, dismissing suggestions of changes in the team, beaten 2-0 midweek by Timisoara of Romania in the UEFA Cup.

Real Madrid failed to please their Welsh manager John Toshack despite a 3-1 win at bottom-placed Real Zaragoza, who had full-back Pablo sent off.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Join in frolics and amusements that give you a much needed sense of being recreated along right lines. This is a good time to show your debtors and creditors that you're on the ball.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Studying all aspects of your income potential and then adding to it by getting suggestions from well organized businessmen can be very helpful to you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your judgement and action in the pathway ahead are excellent today so go along with them and later avoid a critical friend who can stop your progress.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be less outgoing and study more deeply how you can gain the worldly assets you desire while later be sure to keep out of public limelight.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A determined and strong willed acquaintance can be of service to you now in aiding you to get your deep desire while later avoid a stranger.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A worldly highly placed person will quietly show you how you can make more money more confidential success after which don't get into a tiff with a business person.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A new approach at resolving a cherished longing requires a considerable amount of penetrating thought after which don't be depressed by a picky associate.

VERGO: (August 22 to September 22) Let those who have creative ideas you desire know you want to

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

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DUMEGS
BASURD

WHEN MONEY TALKS, A GREEDY PERSON DOESN'T.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: UPPER JULEP VANISH SPRUCE
Answer: The struggling poet's life was filled with verses and - - - REVERSES

THE Daily Crossword by Henry Satchell

ACROSS

- Close
- Bara of the silks
- Ority
- "I cannot tell"
- Corroded
- Big bird: var.
- OT precepts
- Musical interval
- Salad item
- Fr. playground
- MBA and LLS
- Possesses
- Carter or Gish
- Ginger
- "Do - others"
- Pablo's uncles
- Island, NY
- Guessing game
- Magne -
- Provo's state
- "Take - Train"
- Otto's realm:

DOWN

- Alfance
- Power source:
- "Misbehavin"
- Summary
- Gall
- Shower actor
- Depot letters
- Study
- "del Sario"
- Gems
- Hawks' place
- NJ team
- Pour out
- Track
- Source of attraction
- Inner circles
- Maledy
- China cabinet
- Egypt's Sadat
- Metric measure
- Dals
- Grating
- Shweta and towels
- Piece of Lamb
- Can. prov.
- Ignited
- Get all
- Desserts
- Prepare a new draft
- Food regimen
- Twoscore
- Moral
- Structure
- Ladder rung
- Dyslexic
- Get up
- Adjutant
- Understood
- Actor
- Richard
- Family girl
- No
- Stooge name

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

POEM ALPHA RIFT
ADRIE MOSES BRIT
PORT TRENT REIT
COLUMBIANA PANA
RUE ORAIN
BARRIE REBARS FEE
CARRIBOONAS WERT
FOR REBERT LLET
ALINES ABOVE
EASIES TAIT
MUSCRODATIONS
MOOE ARORA OMAR
INTER TAMES RAR
PEST SLADE RHO

U.S. Baseball standings

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Toronto	83	70	.542	—
Boston	82	71	.536	1
Detroit	74	79	.484	9
Cleveland	73	81	.474	10½
Baltimore	70	81	.464	12
Milwaukee	69	83	.454	13½
New York	62	91	.405	21

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Oakland	97	55	.638	—
Chicago	89	64	.582	8½
Texas	80	72	.526	17
California	75	77	.493	22
Seattle	74	80	.481	24
Kansas City	71	81	.467	26
Minnesota	70	84	.455	28

Sunday's games

New York 5, Boston 4
Baltimore 2, Milwaukee 1, 10 innings
Toronto 5, Cleveland 4, 10 innings
Minnesota 6, Texas 4
Kansas City 4, California 0
Detroit 6, Oakland 0
Chicago 2, Seattle 1

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Pittsburgh	88	65	.575	—
New York	85	67	.559	2½
Montreal	81	71	.533	6½
Chicago	72	80	.474	15½
Philadelphia	72	80	.474	15½
St. Louis	68	85	.444	20

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cincinnati	87	66	.569	—
Los Angeles	82	71	.536	5
San Francisco	78	75	.510	9
San Diego	71	82	.464	16
Houston	70	83	.458	17
Atlanta	62	91	.405	25

Sunday's games

Pittsburgh 7, St. Louis 2
Atlanta 3, Houston 0
New York 7, Chicago 3
Philadelphia 2, Montreal 1, 16 innings
San Francisco 6, Los Angeles 2
Cincinnati 9, San Diego 9

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
6 TANNAN HIRSH
1989 Tribune Media Services Inc.

THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 3 2
♥ K Q J 10 9
♦ A A Q J
♣ A 5

EAST
♠ 7 4
♥ 10 7 5 4 2
♦ A 8 7 6 3
♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 10 8 6
♥ A K Q J 8
♦ void
♣ void

The bidding:
South West North East
7 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ace of clubs.

Always be on the lookout for the extra chance that might be the difference between victory and defeat. This hand was prepared for the in-collegiate championships 25 years ago, and vividly illustrates our point.

The recommended opening bid on the South side was seven spades, a grand slam that looks lay-down. Some students discovered the reason for this direct action to their cost—those who started off with a demand bid were far from happy when North converted seven spades

to seven no trump, even though that made on occasion when the opening lead was a club, or a heart, and declarer guessed to take an immediate finesse for the ten.

Declarer ruffed the opening lead and, in most cases, ran off all the trumps. However, the solid minor suits were there for all to see in the dummy; so East did not let go a heart. Eventually, declarer started on the heart suit only to find that he had a loser there and no way to avoid it.

This is not really all that difficult a problem. If hearts are 4-2, declarer can claim, so the right way to go about the hand is to test that suit—after drawing exactly one round of trumps. Now play just two rounds of hearts. If everyone follows, draw the rest of the trumps and claim. If, as here, one of the defenders shows out and also has no more spades, ruff your low heart with dummy's last trump, get back to your hand with a ruff, draw the outstanding trumps and claim.

What if the second round of hearts gets ruffed. No big deal. Since you were going to lose a heart anyway if you drew the trumps, the most you were investing was an extra undertrick—a piquant price to pay for a grand slam!

Mansell win keeps Senna on course for racing title

ESTORIL, Portugal (R) — Briton Nigel Mansell's victory in Sunday's Portuguese Grand Prix has left Brazilian Ayrton Senna as world favorite to win his second F1 Drivers' Championship.

Senna, who finished second in his McLaren, now has a lead of 13 points over Mansell's Ferrari team mate Frenchman Alain Prost with only three races remaining.

To win the world title, Prost needs to win all three and hope Senna suffers a serious collapse of the form which has seen him win six of this season's 13 races.

Prost, third Sunday, admitted as much when he conceded the title race was over after the Portuguese Grand Prix. "I lost the race at the start," he said. "The championship is over for me now. I had to win this race to have any chance."

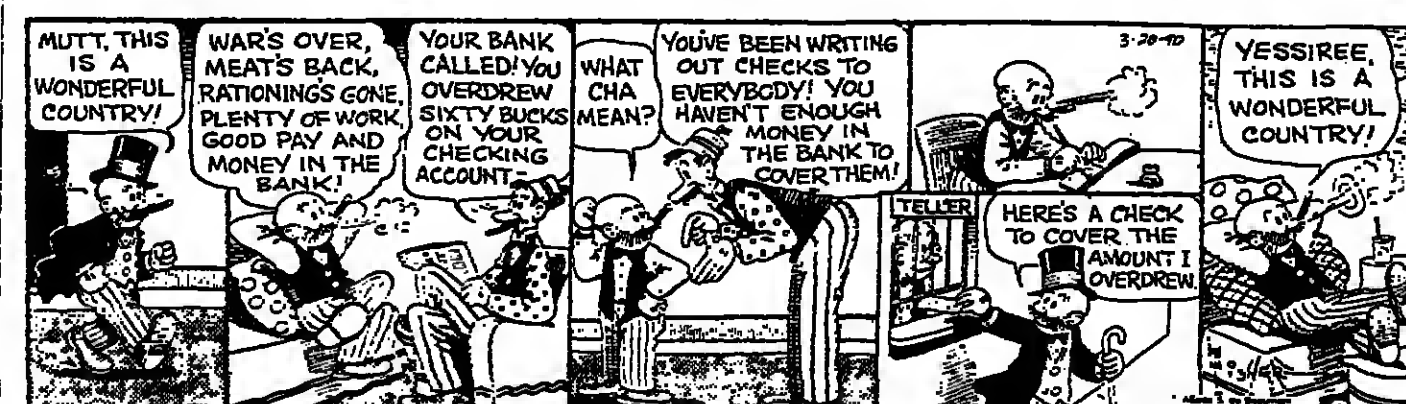
Defending world champion

Prost, seeking his fourth world title, was referring to the near-disastrous events for himself and his team at the start of Sunday's race when Mansell made "about the worst start of my life" and in the process banished Prost at the same time.

Prost, having spent two days last week practising standing starts Ferrari's test track in Italy, was livid with the outcome of the race, particularly as Mansell took no part in the starting practice and then went on to take pole position for Sunday's race.

As Mansell made his desperate efforts to get off the grid, with his rear wheels spinning violently in a cloud of blue smoke, both Senna and McLaren team mate Austrian Gerhard Berger were able to steer a clear path round the outside to take the lead.

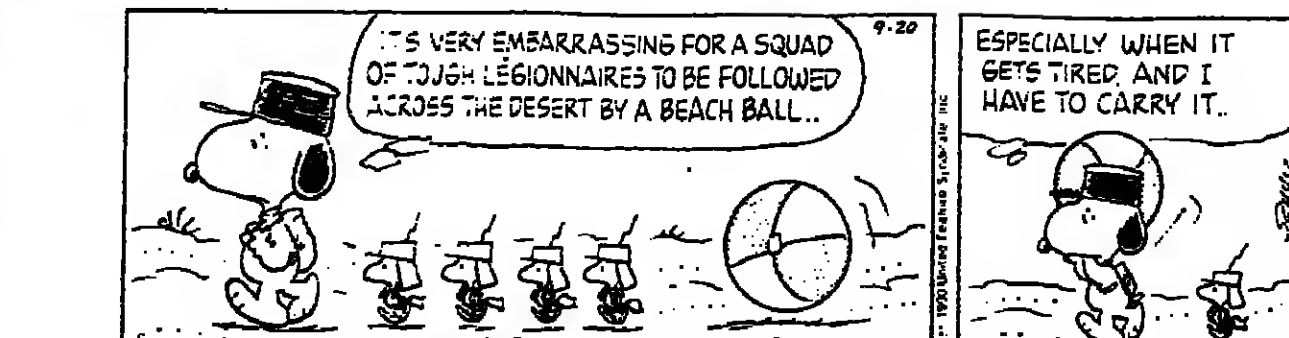
Mutt'n'Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Arab World assets with BIS total \$163 b

BAHRAIN (R) — The Arab World's assets with the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) jumped 6.6 per cent to \$163.6 billion in March 1990 against the previous year.

Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), the Arab World's largest bank, said in a quarterly report assets of Arab states reporting to the bank stood at \$153.4 billion in March 1989.

ABC said net assets had rose 7.5 per cent to \$86 billion in the first quarter of 1990 against \$80 billion a year ago.

Arabs' debts increased by 11 per cent to \$113.2 billion at the end of December, 1989, compared with \$102.1 billion at the end of 1988, the report said.

Non-bank trade-related credits to Arab states rose 12 per cent to \$29.2 billion at the end of 1989 from \$26 billion a year ago.

The Bahrain-based bank, formerly owned by Kuwait, Libya and Abu Dhabi, made its first public issue of 25 million shares last May to boost its paid-in capital to \$1 billion and to set up a subsidiary to give it a foothold in Europe after 1992.

Gulf crisis may halve EC's growth forecast

BRUSSELS (R) — A prolonged Gulf crisis could cost the European Community (EC) almost half its forecast economic growth in 1991 as well as sparking an upsurge in inflation, EC Budget Commissioner Peter Schmidhuber said Monday.

Even if oil prices peaked in early 1991 at \$30 a barrel and then fell back to \$20 to \$24 per barrel, this would slash 0.8 to 0.9 percentage points off growth earlier estimated to reach 3.1 per cent, he said in a speech.

But if oil were to stay at \$30 to \$35 per barrel, "we would have to figure on a reduction of economic growth of as much as 1.5 (percentage points) next year," Schmidhuber said.

Schmidhuber said rising oil prices would push up EC-wide inflation by an additional 1.3 percentage points and offset some of the positive impact of German unification.

The Gulf crisis has already boosted average inflation in the 12 EC member states to 5.9 per cent in the year to end-August, its highest level in five years.

Rising oil prices would also hinder efforts by the bloc to move towards economic and monetary union, Schmidhuber said.

Australia agrees to privatisation measures

CANBERRA (AP) — The governing Labour Party Monday approved sweeping policy changes that lead to competition in telecommunications and the sale of the two state airlines.

The issue of privatisation had threatened to split the party, which had opposed any efforts to sell off government-owned enterprises.

The most divisive issue, particularly among unions, has been telecommunications. A number of overseas companies have expressed interest in entering the Australian telecommunications market.

Delegates at a special party conference voted 58-to-43 Monday to reject an amendment that would have prevented a private competitor from competing against a concern formed by the planned merger of domestic carrier Telecom and overseas carrier OTC.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday, September 24, 1990					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	659.0	663.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	483.3	486.2
Pound Sterling	1217.2	1224.5	Dutch guilder	371.3	373.5
Deutschmark	418.4	420.9	Swedish crown	113.9	114.6
Swiss franc	300.4	303.4	Italian lire (for 100)	56.2	56.5
French franc	125.0	125.8	Belgian franc (for 10)	203.2	204.4

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.			
One Sterling	1.8615/25	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1505/15	Canadian dollar	
	1.5675/80	Deutschemarks	
	1.7675/85	Dutch guilders	
	1.3055/65	Swiss francs	
	32.22/27	Belgian francs	
	5.2465/2515	French francs	
	1169/1170	Italian lire	
	135.60/70	Japanese yen	
	5.7650/7700	Swedish crowns	
	6.0795/0845	Norwegian crowns	
	5.9820/70	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	390.75/391.25	U.S. dollars	

Japanese finance minister proposes overhaul of world monetary system

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Japan's Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto proposed Sunday an overhaul of the world monetary system to bring more order to volatile currency markets.

In an address to the Interim Committee meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Hashimoto said: "I wonder if it might not be possible, in a longer perspective, to explore a more stable monetary system that solidly substantiates spirit of cooperation."

He suggested major nations study the possibility of creating a new monetary system based on currencies in the "triad" of the United States, Japan and the European Community (EC).

The idea is likely to face opposition from some other countries from the Group of Seven (G-7), which comprises the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada.

Bundesbank board member Hans Tietmeyer said Sunday the Japanese idea had been discussed by G-7 deputies in Paris earlier this month. He saw nothing new in the Japanese proposals.

In his speech, Hashimoto fell short of providing any details of the Japanese plan, but a senior finance ministry official said Tokyo may explore an idea of setting up a "reference range" or a target zone for the dollar, the yen and a basket of European currencies.

"We don't think we should give up the present floating rate system and move back to the rigid fixed exchange rate regime. But it is always a good idea to have loose reference ranges," said.

Under the reference range system, currencies are allowed to move only within set ranges, and central banks are required to intervene whenever the currencies move out of those ranges.

"There is no joint position on the idea of formalising target ranges for currencies. The G-7 deputies talked about this idea, but the only thing where we have consensus is on the flexible form of cooperation that we have at the moment," Bundesbank's Tietmeyer said.

Japanese officials said the G-7 nations have made a success in managing exchange rates through published target ranges set for their currencies, especially since their Louvre accord in Paris in February 1987.

"The reference range is an idea we have used so far within the framework of the floating rate system, and could be employed under the proposed new regime," one Japanese finance ministry official said.

However, any reference range would not be publicised because it could invite a lot of currency speculation, he said.

The ministry official said Japan would actively study the issue by taking every possibility into consideration and hopes to come up with a specific proposal at a "certain point" in the future.

He said Japan sees the need to begin the study because the EC is now moving fast toward a unified market and a unified currency.

"Given the accelerated movement for economic and currency integration in Europe," Japan has come to realise that measures should be worked out to secure a stable relationship among currencies in the United States, Japan and the EC, Hashimoto told the IMF meeting.

On the Gulf crisis, Hashimoto declared that world financial institutions have an "extremely critical" role to play. IMF is expected to promote efforts of its member nations to adjust to the impact of higher oil prices and loss of trade.

"In multinational support for frontline countries and for the non-oil-producing developing countries and the nations of Eastern Europe hard-hit by higher oil prices, the (IMF) has extremely critical roles to play," Hashimoto said.

"I believe it is most opportune that the fund is deliberating to allow a greater degree of flexibility to the use of its resources in situations such as the present one," Hashimoto said.

He said the fund would act as a "core of support" for countries affected economically by Iraq's takeover of Kuwait and the United Nations embargo against Iraq.

GIB widens banking operations

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf International Bank (GIB), the second-biggest offshore bank in Bahrain, said Monday it had formed a joint investment company in Oman and would open a representative office in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The bank said in a statement the joint venture, Gibeop (Oman) LLC, was between GIB and prominent Omani business interests.

It gave no names but said the project has an initial paid up capital of seven million Omani riyals (\$18 million).

"It has been established to provide a broad range of corporate financial services, to promote business expansion and to support the development of capital markets in Oman," the statement said.

GIB said it would also open a representative office in the UAE before the end of 1990 to "support and develop trade and investment flows between the UAE, Gulf Arab states and the rest of the world."

The bank is owned by the governments of Bahrain, Iraq, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

GIB Chairman Abdullah Saif said "by establishing ourselves in Oman and the UAE, we will be better placed to serve local requirements."

Seif, who is also governor of Bahrain Monetary Agency, said "the banks maintains full confidence in the long-term economic prospects of the region and in spite of current circumstances we are resolved to forge ahead with our development plans."

He was apparently referring to the Gulf crisis caused by Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, a member of the GIB.

IMF approves expedient effort to help states hurt by Gulf crisis

WASHINGTON (AP) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) gave approval Monday to an accelerated effort to supply billions of dollars to help countries hurt by the Gulf crisis.

The approval by the IMF's policy-making Interim Committee represented a victory for the U.S. government, which is counting on both the IMF and its sister lending agency, the World Bank, to help in the international effort to isolate Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

In a final communiqué, the IMF Interim Committee directed the staff of the international lending agency to "respond on an expedited basis to present difficulties."

The communiqué provided no specifics on how much money would be forthcoming, but U.S. officials have discussed that three countries alone — Egypt, Jordan and Turkey — would need \$13 billion to \$16 billion in economic assistance through the end of next year.

Canadian Finance Minister Michael Wilson said the lack of specifics did not indicate dissension on the part of the 22 finance ministers on the Interim Committee, but rather a desire to leave as much flexibility as possible for the IMF to channel aid to countries.

"We recognised the urgency of the needs of the people who are affected," Wilson said. "The urgency is stated, the framework is provided and now it is up to the IMF management to respond."

The IMF approval for increased assistance followed comments by World Bank President Barber Conable that his institution also stood ready to provide assistance.

Echoing the remarks by Conable, IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus told reporters Monday that he believed the increased aid could start in the early months of 1991.

British Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major had told reporters Sunday that the question of whether to provide aid was not at issue.

Parliament approves broad new powers for Gorbachev

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet lawmakers voted overwhelmingly Monday to forsake seven decades of communist economics, endorsing a rescue plan to create a free market system from the failed machinery of centralised planning.

The Supreme Soviet also gave President Mikhail Gorbachev sweeping new powers to implement the reforms unilaterally.

But lawmakers continued to disagree on which of several competing economic blueprints for accomplishing the switch should be followed.

After a tumultuous debate, the Supreme Soviet settled on a resolution calling for a committee of legislators and economists appointed by Gorbachev to merge the recipes into a unified plan by Oct. 15. The vote was 323-11, with 56 abstentions.

Although differences remained, the vote marked the first time the Supreme Soviet committed the country to switching to a market economy in hopes of ending chronic shortages and arresting inflation and a soaring budget deficit.

Hours later the parliament approved 305-46, with 41 abstentions, Gorbachev's request for broad emergency powers to carry out reforms. The action gave him the authority until March 1992 to bypass step-by-step legislative scrutiny and issue decrees on property, management of the economy, the budget and law and order.

The legislature would have the power to recommend Gorbachev cancel or modify the decrees, which the president said he would begin issuing soon.

Oil prices near \$40 per barrel

LONDON (R) — Spot oil prices headed towards \$40 a barrel Monday, approaching the highest in a decade on the market's fear that it may be impossible to avoid a war in the Gulf.

Sellers quoted the world benchmark crude oil, British North Sea Brent blend, at around \$38.90 for prompt loading, representing a gain of \$2 from Friday.

Prices have now about doubled since Iraq's takeover of Kuwait and the advance has accelerated in recent days.

"The market has always feared a war which might cause damage in the Gulf oil fields. As the days tick by, nothing happens to change its perception," said Alan Sinclair, an oil analyst with London stockbrokers Smith New Court.

North Sea prices, however, still have some way to go before they reach the all-time reported high — a trade at \$45 on Nov. 17, 1979 during the second oil "shock" when panic-buying followed the Iranian revolution.

Also, energy economists say prices now would have to be around \$80 to be equivalent in real terms to \$45 in 1979, based on average inflation in the 24 industrial nations of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Sach market-watchers, as the ex-Saudi petroleum minister, Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani, have said that an actual outbreak of Gulf hostilities could propel prices to at least \$60.

Beyond that, Western oil company executives say, the direction of prices would be determined on the battlefield and it is almost impossible to speculate on what they might do.

On the London futures market, Brent blend for November loading traded at \$36.15 a barrel, up sharply from Friday's close of \$34.76.

One factor helping to drive prices higher Monday was a warning by President Saddam Hussein that Iraq may strike at Middle East oil fields and at Israel if it is strangled by the campaign to drive it out of Kuwait.

The 1980-88 Iraq-Iran war showed that it can be difficult to knock out oil fields from the air.

"Pipelines can be patched up. You have to be very accurate to hit pumping stations and gas/oil separating units," said one Western executive. Loading terminals with their storage tanks and jetties are an easier target.

Industry officials say that, in the event of war, Western governments would be likely to use strategic petroleum reserves.

They could introduce energy-saving measures such as speed limits and rules lowering the temperature in public buildings.

Romania joins IFC

WASHINGTON (AP) — The former communist state of Romania became the 138th member of the International Finance Corp. (IFC) Sunday, signalling an interest in private enterprise in a country where most major businesses are still state-run.

"It's a big step in our economic programme for the transition to a market economy," said Romanian Finance Minister Theodor Stolojan.

The IFC, which is affiliated with the World Bank, finances and assists in the development of private businesses in developing countries.

Stolojan said his country previously had no reason to join the IFC "because there was no room for the private sector."

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Liberian rebel leader calls for elections on Oct. 10

ABIDJAN (R) — Liberian rebel leader Charles Taylor has said he will organise a general election for Oct. 10 in the war-torn West African country.

Speaking in a radio interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Africa Service, Taylor said the poll would be open to opposition groups including a breakaway rebel faction led by Prince Johnson.

"By Oct. 10 we hope to have all assembly members elected," Taylor said, repeating that he regarded himself president of Liberia.

Taylor said elected members would be sworn in by Oct. 15.

Taylor announced a ceasefire at noon Saturday to end fighting between his men and West African peacekeeping troops, an announcement he had declared war. The ceasefire has largely been observed.

Johnson's men, who control part of the centre of Monrovia, the Liberian capital, and who killed former President Samuel Doe two weeks ago, have not been involved in fighting for several days.

Taylor said he was sending a 10-man delegation to talk to the Johnson faction.

But he repeated his long-standing claim that the real Johnson is dead, killed in an ambush several weeks ago, and that the Johnson in Monrovia is a puppet of the United States.

Journalists and other witnesses who met Johnson before the alleged ambush say he is still alive.

Also Sunday, details emerged about the torture-slavery of Doe. Sources in the West African economic community said Johnson, whose forces were responsible for Doe's murder, plan to meet with Taylor Friday in Freetown, Sierra Leone, for peace talks that would be observed by U.S. officials.

The rapprochement follows a peace mission by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Herman Cohen, who met with both men last week and urged them to negotiate a political settlement to the civil war.

Johnson is a former lieutenant of Taylor who formed a breakaway faction in March. The two rebel leaders have been fighting each other and Doe's forces in the capital for the past few months.

Agence France-Presse, the

French news agency, in a report from a correspondent travelling behind rebel lines, said Taylor announced elections at a news conference in Gbarnga town, 120 kilometres northeast of Monrovia.

It said he had invited the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity to monitor the unilateral truce he declared at midday Saturday.

The first details of Doe's slaying were published Sunday by London's Observer newspaper.

It quoted a Lebanese merchant from Monrovia, identified only as Joseph, who said he watched Johnson's men torture Doe to death after his capture on Sept. 9.

"Doe's hands were cuffed together and he had been shot in both legs and was bleeding heavily. They were abusing him. Then one of Johnson's men took a knife, a machete, and cut off his ear. Then they cut his face like this," he said, indicating diagonal slashes across the cheeks.

"He was crying and the blood was running down his cheeks from his face and head."

Joseph, interviewed in Freetown, Sierra Leone by a newspaper, said Doe kept blow-

ing on the blood, which was collecting in the centre of his body.

"Then, one of Johnson's men thought he was trying to do some kind of Juju (magic), blowing on himself to make himself disappear. So he shot him again."

"He was nearly dead then, anyway, from loss of blood," Joseph said. That was the last he saw of Doe.

The Observer quoted a Liberian teacher named Oliver as saying he saw Doe's body later that day.

"They had him in a wheelbarrow and were pushing the body around the town. They were shouting, 'We've killed Doe,' and firing their guns in the air."

"People were coming up to the body and cutting it with knives. Slashing at him. He had two fingers, maybe three, missing from one hand and they had cut off his testicles," the teacher said.

Their description was reminiscent of an October 1985 scene in which Doe put the mutilated body of Brig-Gen. Thomas Quiwonkpa on display in an open car that was driven through Monrovia. Quiwonkpa had led a coup attempt against Doe and was a mentor of Johnson.

Cambodian factions prepare for new peace talks

BANGKOK (R) — Cambodian factions moved quickly Monday to set up a new peace conference to end the 11 year war between guerrillas and the Phnom Penh government after a compromise on the composition of the Supreme National Council (SNC).

Thai officials, angry at last week's collapse of the SNC's first meeting, insisted that this time the belligerents must show flexibility before sitting down to talk.

The talks broke up over how to include the titular head of the guerrilla alliance, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, as SNC chairman without ending the even 6-6 distribution of seats.

Fresh talks became possible at the weekend when Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen and the guerrillas agreed to a compromise proposed by Sihanouk to give Phnom Penh an extra seat.

Representatives of three guerrilla factions met Thai Foreign Ministry officials Monday and a guerrilla source said he expected the SNC to meet again by the end of this week.

Among the first tasks for the SNC would be the selection of a unified delegation to send to the U.N. General Assembly.

"I am sure that we can agree on at least two issues. On the appointment of a chairman and nominating the delegation to the U.N.," the source said.

"If these two go smoothly we may have time to bring up moral restraint (a ceasefire) or a moratorium (on arms shipments into Cambodia)," he added.

A Foreign Ministry official in Phnom Penh told Reuters Hun Sen was ready to go to Bangkok, 250 km as he was invited.

We're waiting for the green light from Bangkok, he said. A senior Thai official said his government was in touch with Phnom Penh.

The SNC is a key element of a U.N. Security Council plan to end the bloodletting in Cambodia between the Vietnam-backed Phnom Penh government and the guerrilla alliance which includes the formidable Khmer Rouge supported by China.

The Maoist Khmer Rouge hold the Cambodia seat at the U.N., which does not recognise the Phnom Penh government installed by the Vietnamese army after it ousted the Khmer Rouge.

Mrs. Mandela arraigned

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Winnie Mandela, looking grim and tired, was arraigned Monday on charges of assault and kidnapping linked to a 1988 incident when four youths were allegedly taken to her house and beaten.

Mrs. Mandela, holding hands with her husband, African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, said nothing as she arrived at Protea Magistrate's Court. She stood silently as her lawyers conferred with the magistrate.

Trial date was set for Feb. 4. Mrs. Mandela, wearing a black outfit, was greeted by about 30 cheering and singing ANC women supporters as she left the court.

"Winnie, Winnie," the women chanted as they tried to touch Mrs. Mandela.

She smiled briefly before being whisked away by lawyers and aides. Mandela also had no immediate comment.

One of the four youths was killed and the former head of Mrs. Mandela's bodyguards, Jerry Richardson, has been convicted of murder and sentenced to death in the same case. The sentence is being appealed.

Mrs. Mandela, a highly controversial figure, has denied any wrongdoing.

A trial date had been set for Oct. 30, but was changed at the request of Mandela's attorney Ismail Ayob, who said the complexity of the case demanded more time for preparation.

Mrs. Mandela, who appeared with seven of her former body-

guards, who are facing the same charges, was freed on her own recognisance. Bail for the other defendants was continued. All will appear in court on Feb. 4.

If convicted, Mrs. Mandela faces sentencing ranging from the death sentence to a suspended sentence for kidnapping, lawyers said.

White and black leaders fear the trial will strain relations between the ANC and the government as they try to start talks on ending apartheid. Mandela may be discredited in the eyes of militant young blacks who oppose negotiating with the government and will see his wife's trial as demeaning.

In December 1988, four young blacks were kidnapped from a church home in Soweto, according to testimony at Richardson's trial. The four were taken to Mrs. Mandela's Soweto home and assaulted, witnesses said.

Stompie Seipei, 14, was killed. The three survivors testified that Mrs. Mandela participated in the beatings.

Police Monday reported scattered black factional fights in townships around Johannesburg and in Natal province that claimed at least 12 lives.

About 800 people have been killed in the Johannesburg area since August.

The fighting pits Xhosa and other blacks loyal to the ANC against Zulus linked to the conservative Inkatha Movement.

The two groups oppose apartheid, but differ over leadership and aims for a future South Africa.

COLUMN

Press urged to stop hounding Charles

LONDON (R) — A surgeon who operated on Prince Charles, Britain's heir to the throne, after he broke his arm in a polo accident told the country's tabloid press Monday to leave his patient alone and let him recover in peace. Dismissing a flood of reports that the prince's condition was deteriorating, surgeon Christopher Colton said there was no problem with the royal recovery except the attention of the press. "There is no infection, no complication and no known impediment to a full recovery other than the undoubted stress of having a battalion of photographers camped outside one's bedroom window," he said in a letter to the Times newspaper. He called on the media to end its "intensely aggravating speculation and intrusion." Alarmist newspaper reports have featured pictures of a dazed-looking and dishevelled prince in his dressing gown, taken by photographers who tracked him to a French chateau where he went to recuperate from his injury.

Mao's grandson waits on athletes

PEKING (R) — The grandson of China's late Chairman Mao Tse-tung, who once said a revolution is not a dinner party, is waiting on tables at the Asian Games Athletes' Village, a Shanghai newspaper reported. Wang Xiaozhi, the 18-year-old son of Mao's daughter Li Na, volunteered to wait on athletes from Peking Foreign Affairs and Tourism Vocational School, the Wen Hui Bao newspaper said. "Every time as he finishes work he wipes the tables and windows of the dining hall," it said. "He gains praise from his classmates and the athletes." Peking regards the Asian Games, from Sept. 22 to Oct. 7, as a chance to polish China's image, badly hurt in last year's military crackdown on dissent. Wang's ultra-leftist grandmother Jia Jing, Mao's widow, is believed to be serving a life term in prison for counter-revolutionary crimes.

Portuguese wins piano competition

LEEDS, England (AP) — Artur Pizarro, 22, of Portugal won the 10th Leeds International Piano Competition. Lars Vogt, 20, of West Germany was second and Eric Le Sage, 25, of France third. The other placed finalists in Leeds City Hall were Balazs Szokolay, 29, of Hungary, 4th; Haesum Paik, 25, of South Korea, 5th; and Andrei Zhelezonog, 18, Soviet Union, 6th. The competition, founded in 1963 by Leeds piano-teacher Fanny Waterman, is held every three years and has come to be regarded as the most prestigious in the world. Pizarro, who has been living in the United States, was a pupil of Sequeira Costa. He won an international competition in Lisbon in 1987 and the Greater Palm Beach Symphony Piano Competition in Florida in 1988. He has given recitals throughout Europe and the United States and played with the Moscow Philharmonic and the London Mozart Players.

Donkeys, books pay same tax in Peru

LIMA (R) — If you want to import a donkey, an African buffalo or a foreign book to Peru you must pay the same import tax, a government decree said Saturday. The decree, published in the official gazette El Peruano, set new import duties for a wide range of products, including cars, cigarettes and whiskey. These articles plus donkeys, buffaloes and books will have to pay 50 per cent custom taxes, plus a 10 per cent import surcharge.

Chinese prisoners hold fashion show

PEKING (R) — Inmates of a Shanghai prison recently held a fashion show of clothes they made in jail, with some designs using motifs from the Asian Games which opened in Peking Saturday. Twelve male and female prisoners modelled more than 100 outfits on Sept. 15, according to the Shanghai newspaper Wen Hui Bao. "This event does not only serve to purify the souls of the prisoners, but also created conditions for them to learn a skill they can use after they are released," it said. Some inmates used Asian Games emblems such as pandas and the great wall in their designs, it said. The games run in Peking until Oct. 7.

Filipino Communist guerrillas scrap truce; army rebels threaten coup

MANILA (R) — Philippine Communist guerrillas Monday scrapped a ceasefire with President Corason Aquino's government, and right-wing army rebels gave another warning that they would overthrow her administration.

The guerrillas accused Aquino of secretly forging a deal with Washington to ensure the continued presence of U.S. military bases in the country and announced they would resume their insurgency on a bigger scale.

The Aquino government initiated a limited truce with the Communist New People's Army (NPA) on Sept. 12 in Manila, in the northern city of Baguio and in

three provinces damaged by a major earthquake last July.

"In the face of the government's insincerity and high-handedness, the NPA has no other recourse but to intensify military operations in those quake-damaged areas and in Metro Manila," NPA Chief of Staff Romulo Kintanar declared.

U.S. and Philippine negotiators held talks in Manila last week on the future of the bases. Philippine officials said they were studying a Washington proposal for a phased reduction in the American military presence but no agreement had been reached.

The U.S. lease on the facilities, including the strategic Subic Bay

Base and Clark Air Base, expires next September.

Fugitive coup leader ex-Colonel Gregorio Honasan, in a letter to news organisations, said Aquino's downfall was imminent. He has frequently made similar claims but Aquino has survived six coup attempts since taking office in 1986.

Armed Forces Chief General Renato de Villa placed the 150,000-strong military on red alert around the country to forestall any violence.

The last two coup attempts against Aquino, in August 1987 and December 1989, came after the government raised oil prices.

40 dead in heavy Mexican rainstorm

CHIHUAHUA CITY, Mexico (AP) — The heaviest rainstorm in 90 years flooded large sections of this capital of Chihuahua state in northern Mexico, killing at least 40 people and leaving more than 5,000 homeless, authorities said.

Another 30 people were reported missing by the Red Cross. The storm, which began Saturday night, dumped more than 13 centimetres of rain on the area around Chihuahua City, a city of more than 600,000 located over 1,100 kilometres north of Mexico City.

Rain continued Monday morning and was forecast to continue for several days, increasing the danger that two nearly full dams nearby might spill over.

More than 350 homes were destroyed and another 1,000 were damaged, said Gov. Fernando Baeza Melendez.

Angola government, rebels show flexibility for talks

LISBON (R) — Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi and the leftist Luanda government have said they were both approaching peace talks this week with flexibility and concrete proposals to try to end 15 years of civil war.

The talks, expected to open in Lisbon this week, are the fourth round to be hosted by Portugal since April.

The last round in August ended in deadlock over demands by UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) for immediate recognition before a ceasefire.

This time observers from Moscow and Washington, the superpower backers of Luanda and UNITA respectively, have been invited to help break the impasse.

Their presence ought to help achieve a ceasefire, Western diplomats say.

Savimbi said in a statement received in Lisbon that he was encouraged by recent moves by Portuguese mediators to open the

way towards a truce.

"UNITA views these negotiations with a positive and flexible spirit. We are determined to bring peace to Angola," Savimbi said. We added that his team would present a proposal which they hoped would break the impasse.

"We hope the Angolan government delegation will respond positively. If that is the case, we will be able to progress towards a ceasefire and agreement on a political agenda for change in Angola."

The Angolan government delegation arrived in Lisbon "carrying concrete proposals in the spirit of constructive flexibility with the aim of facilitating peace," Angola's official news agency, ANGOP, said.

The government delegation is headed by a close adviser to President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and includes his secretary for defence-related affairs and the deputy minister of state security.

foreign ally of Castro's Communist state.

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Khrushchev installed 42 missiles before the United States spotted them and President John Kennedy demanded they be withdrawn.

"Castro suggested that to prevent our nuclear missiles from being destroyed, we should launch a pre-emptive strike against the U.S.," Khrushchev said.

He said missiles on the island were capable of destroying New York, Washington and Chicago, but he was willing to withdraw them in return for assurances there would be no further U.S. aggression against Cuba. In 1961, the American Central Intelligence Agency had organised an invasion at the Bay of Pigs that failed.

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Sri Lanka's Tamils want Muslim militia to disband

COLOMBO (R) — Six Tamil political parties Monday demanded the disbanding of government-armed Muslim home guard units, which they held responsible for the massacres of Tamil civilians.

The Tamil politicians also accused the Sinhalese-dominated government of being "indifferent to these massacres."

The home guard units were created this summer after Tamil rebels raided several Muslim villages and slaughtered hundreds of civilians in Sri Lanka's escalating ethnic conflict.

"Muslim home guards are let loose on innocent Tamil civilians with the consent of the government," N. Srikantha, a member of Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) told a news conference.

On Friday, 16 Tamils were hacked to death at Podukudyirru Colony in eastern coastal district of Batticaloa. Tamils blamed the home guards, but police and

military have not confirmed the identity of the assailants.

"The Sri Lankan army turns a blind eye when atrocities are committed on innocent Tamil civilians," said Abbo Yusuf, a Muslim leader of the predominantly Tamil Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (ERPFL).

Members of the six Tamil parties said they visited Batticaloa Saturday and recorded accounts from 18 Tamils who survived the attack.

Among other alleged anti-Tamil incidents listed by the parties was the disappearance of 156 Tamils from Vathuramooli village since Sept. 9.

Another 22 Tamil fishermen were shot dead allegedly by Muslim home guards on Sept. 19 at Sathurukondan village, also in Batticaloa district. The whereabouts of 157 Tamils, rounded by the army and Muslim units in the district, is still uncertain, they said.

15 Japanese politicians arrive in North Korea

TOKYO (AP) — A group of 15 Japanese politicians arrived Monday in North Korea on a visit that Japan hopes will help thaw relations between the two Asian neighbours.

In a positive sign from North Korea, its official Korean Central News Agency reported the group's arrival without its usual hostile references to Japan.

The delegation of legislators from Japan's governing Liberal Democratic and Socialist parties was met at Pyongyang's airport by Kim Yong Sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Worker's Party of Korea, the Communist nation's ruling party, the news agency said in a report monitored in Tokyo.

The delegation is led by Shin Kanemaru, one of the Japanese governing party's most influential leaders. Kanemaru was expected to seek the release of Japanese seamen being held in North Korea as a first step towards closer ties between the two countries, which have no formal diplomatic relations.

Kanemaru also was expected to

carry an apology from Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to the North Korean people for Japan's 1910-45 occupation of Korea.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto said the mission's aim was to "pave the way for the release of two seamen and to help open dialogue between the two countries."

The Japanese seamen have been held in North Korea on espionage charges since November 1983. Pyongyang has pressed for the return of a North Korean defector in exchange for their release, but Japan has refused the demand.

North Korea is one of the few countries with which Japan has no diplomatic relations, although only 560 kilometres of sea separate the two nations. Pyongyang has long maintained that South Korea, Japan and U.S. "imperialists" are planning an invasion.

The Japan Socialist Party, along with the Japan-North Korea Parliamentary Goodwill League, has acted as a bridge between the two countries.

Bulgarian Socialist Party chief resigns

SOFIA (AP) — Socialist Party Chairman Alexander Lilov, under pressure from reformers in his party, announced his resignation Monday.

Lilov became party leader in February as Bulgaria joined in Eastern Europe's rejection of years of Communist Party rule. But he disappointed many party members and other Bulgarians who expected him to spearhead swift political change.

In a speech Monday to the congress of the former Communist Party, Lilov acknowledged that the party needs a leader who is more pragmatic.

"I have (to assume) the responsibility for the time during which I was a politburo member of this party. This has been for more than ten years," he said.

Lilov and former President Petar Mladenov are among the top officials who held leading posts during the rule of longtime Communist strongman Todor Zhivkov.

Bui Lilov, for many years chief ideologist of the Communist Party, was dropped by Zhivkov from the leadership in 1983 and joined it again after Zhivkov's ouster last Nov. 10.

His resignation came a day after Premier Andrei Lukanov named four possible candidates

to replace him.

In heated debate at the congress, heads of four reformist factions in the party strongly called for a new, younger leadership.

Delegates were earlier scheduled to elect new leadership organs early Monday. But late Sunday it became clear that the congress was far behind schedule and had not discussed key documents.

Heated and often confrontational debate between supporters and opponents of change focused on party policy, the leadership and on preserving unity.

Dragan Draganov, a leader of radical change, one of four reform wings in the party, summed up the sentiment of the progressives in a briefing with reporters:

"If now radical changes are made, there will be a gradual disintegration of the party," he said.

Draganov was one of four possible successors to Lilov named in an interview with the Associated Press.

The others were Alexander Tomov of Demos, another reformist faction, Prof. Petar Emil Mitev, of the Road to Europe, and Asen Zhablensky, who belongs to Draganov's group.

Colombian president rules out talks with drug lords

BOGOTA (AP) — President Cesar Gaviria, faced with a hostage crisis by the Medellín cocaine cartel, assured Colombians Sunday that his government would not negotiate with drug traffickers.

Gaviria's directness contrasted with his administration's efforts to hush press reports about the hostages, seven journalists and the sister of a Colombian ambassador. The government has yet to acknowledge that the victims are being held by the Medellín cartel and has forbidden radio news coverage of such "unconfirmed reports."

The cartel accepted responsibility for three of the eight kidnappings in a statement to local news media last week. The Colombian press has quoted security forces officials as saying that the statement is authentic.

Local newspapers, citing reliable cartel sources, have reported that all of the eight kidnapping victims are in the cartel's hands.

In a letter published Sunday in Bogota's El Espectador newspaper, the president addressed questions about the handling of his first crisis since taking office on Aug. 7.

A Saturday editorial by El Espectador had voiced the doubts of many Colombians by asking if the government was "surprisingly conversing with drug traffickers."

Gaviria answered with a resounding "no."

"Everything can be presumed except that the government is carrying on a dialogue or maintaining whatever type of contact with criminal organisations," the president said in his letter to El Espectador.

The Gaviria administration has avoided acknowledging the cartel's responsibility for the abductions, perhaps trying to buy time while formulating a plan to deal with the crisis.

The recent string of kidnappings ended a nearly two-month respite in the cartel's terrorist campaign. The Medellín traffickers declared a "ceasefire" in the campaign last July, saying they wanted to demonstrate their desire for peace.

Bombings and other attacks by the cartel had killed more than 500 people in the year before the truce was declared.

Castro urged Soviets to attack U.S. — Khrushchev

NEW YORK (R) — Cuban President Fidel Castro urged Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev in 1962 to attack the United States with nuclear missiles, according to new tapes from Khrushchev's recorded memoirs released Sunday.

Time magazine, which published excerpts, said the memoirs, were taped by Khrushchev following his fall from power in 1964 and were kept from publication until now by family members worried that he had gone too far in his complaints about the Soviet system and officials still alive.

Other memoirs by Khrushchev, who died in 1971, were published in the West in the 1970s.

The former Kremlin leader called Castro "botheaded" and said that after the United States discovered Soviet warheads in Cuba 150 kilometres from its shore, Castro suggested "a pre-emptive strike against the U.S."

Castro overthrew the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1959 and broke relations with the United States in 1961. By 1962, the Soviet Union was the main

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foreign ally of Castro's Communist state.

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"Castro suggested that to prevent our nuclear missiles from being destroyed, we should launch a pre-emptive strike against the U.S.," Khrushchev said.

He said missiles on the island were capable of destroying New York, Washington and Chicago, but he was willing to withdraw them in return for assurances there would be no further U.S. aggression against Cuba. In 1961, the American Central Intelligence Agency had organised an invasion at the Bay of Pigs that failed.

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Castro urged Soviets to attack U.S. — Khrushchev

removing the missiles.

Castro "thought that America would not keep its word and that once we removed the missiles, the U.S. would invade Cuba," Khrushchev said. But, Khrushchev said, he and the Soviet leadership were unwilling to start a nuclear war and the missiles were withdrawn.

Khrushchev said Castro later denied he had wanted the attack and was embarrassed by his actions.

Castro, Khrushchev said, "had failed to think through the obvious consequences of a proposal that placed the